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Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report
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FBIS-NES-94-151 *5 August 1994*

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Jordanian, Israeli Experts Meet in Wadi al-'Arabah

JN0408145594 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] Jordanian and Israeli frontier experts met in Wadi al-'Arabah today to prepare for August 8 talks on border demarcation and water sharing.

Head of Jordan's boundary sub-commission Dr. 'Abdallah Tuqan said today's meeting aimed at reaching an agreement on technical arrangements necessary for Jordanian-Israeli boundary sub-commission.

Over the next four weeks the experts from both sides will discuss a mechanism to draw a timetable for a joint map of the borders that will be used for the demarcation of the borders.

Paper on 'Arrogant' Israeli Stance on Jerusalem

MM0408085094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Aug 94 p 9

[Editorial: "Palestinian State Is the Principal Issue. The Israeli Prime Minister's Recent Statements on Jerusalem and Palestinian Detainees Arouse Suspicion, Deprive Peace Agreements of Their Credibility"]

[Text] Every day that passes shows that Israel is trying to keep the Palestinian state idea away from implementation, and indeed to marginalize the PLO's role. Thus far, Israeli authorities still have the upper hand in the self-rule areas. In fact they are keen to prove and announce this.

They are acting in Jerusalem as though it is under their jurisdiction forever, granting or denying rights in the holy city in absolute freedom.

Israel tends to forget that the pivot of all the current negotiations and the agreements it has reached is a just solution to the Palestinian issue. Actually, had it not been for the "Gaza-Jericho First" agreement, none of the Arab negotiators would have been able to move a single step on the road to peace. And it seems that this agreement is merely a formal pretext" designed to enable Israel to get rid of all the restrictions imposed by the Arab and Palestinian struggle for the sake of upholding right, recovering the land, and establishing a real peace.

While an agreement has been reached with Jordan on the Jerusalem issue, Israel continues to refuse to discuss the issue of the city with the Palestinians, deferring this until 1996, according to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statements yesterday. It is clear that this is illogical, unless it is designed to sow disunion among the Arabs, between the Jordanians and the Palestinians—which has actually happened. This is a method which does not reflect good intentions or seriousness. It arouses concern among the ranks of all parties.

As the Jerusalem issue was dealt with in the Israeli-Jordanian agreement, it is now meaningless to defer talks on it. Besides, as is known, the international community is agreed that Jerusalem and the West Bank are a territory seized by force in 1967 and thus must be returned to their owners. This procrastination is meaningless, especially as the Gaza-Jericho agreement, which is meager, is still faltering and is very limited—which has aroused suspicion among Palestinians and ordinary Arabs in general about Israel's seriousness.

The language in which Yitzhaq Rabin is speaking about Jerusalem, Palestinian detainees, and other problems does not reflect any seriousness about moving toward a true settlement and a real peace. It is an arrogant imperialist language inconsistent with the general atmosphere dominating the move toward peace.

While it is accepted that the efforts of the peace sponsor, that is the United States, are aimed at bringing views closer without imposing one party's view on the other, the evident Israeli intransigence and the tampering with the Jerusalem issue ruin all the efforts exerted by the United States and expose the entire peace plan to danger. Especially as Syria and Lebanon are still outside the circle of an agreement. In order for the plan to move forward, all these obstacles have to be removed immediately.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Foreign Ministers Meet To Discuss Bosnia

Velayati on Lifting Arms Embargo

LD0508104894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] As you are aware, the meeting on Bosnia of the foreign ministers of the Islamic countries' contact group ended its work in Geneva this morning. The correspondent of the Central News Unit in Paris has interviewed Foreign Minister Velayati on this issue. We have just received his report and we draw your attention to it:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Dr. Velayati, the meeting on the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina of the foreign ministers of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] contact group took place yesterday in Geneva following the rejection by the Serbs of the Western countries' and Russia's peace proposal. The situation has once again reached crisis point in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Serbs have renewed their attacks against the Muslims. Under these conditions, what decisions did ICO member states make to help the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and counter the Serb's increasing pressure against the Muslims?

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[Velayati] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. As you know, the session was held in Geneva in a short space of time, at the request of Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, and because of the awful situation prevailing in Bosnia and the Balkans at present. That is, his request was conveyed to the ICO secretary general. The latter asked the foreign ministers of the ICO contact group member countries. Most of them accepted and the session was held yesterday morning and afternoon and reached clear conclusions.

One of the conclusions is that we asked the United Nations to continue, or even step up, sanctions against the present Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, or Serbia and Montenegro. And in addition to what there has been up to now, to block that country's assets abroad. Severing communications is the next step according to our proposal to the United Nations, to take place if they continue their support for the Bosnian Serbs' attacks and crimes against Muslims.

We also stressed that, considering the existing situation, the arms embargo on Bosnian Muslims should be lifted as soon as possible. And if that is not done, Islamic countries will get together once more to unilaterally lift the arms embargo on Bosnia. [end recording]

Further on Comments

LD0408151494 Tehran IRNA in English 1458 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] Geneva, Aug. 4, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati urged the Islamic countries to take immediate measures, including a summit meeting of the OIC [Islamic Conference Organization, IOC] contact group and an urgent session of the UN General Assembly if the Security Council fails to take serious steps towards resovling the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in view of the rejection of the peace plan by the Serbs.

Velayati made the remark at a meeting of foreign ministers of the contact group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in Geneva Thursday.

Velayati added that if the situation was not altered, the OIC contact group should consider "lifting the arms embargo unilaterally."

He called for lifting of the illegal arms embargo against the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and enforcement of sanctions against Serbs coupled with aerial attacks against the Serbian positions in case they reject the peace plan.

Velayati also termed as "imperative" adoption of measures to protect safe areas and remove Serbian heavy artillery from the surroundings of the towns, especially around Sarajevo and Gorazde, as well as deployment of international observers along the border of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro.

However, he said, if the five-member contact group, who took upon themselves the responsibility to end this tragic war does not go ahead with the implementation of its decisions, the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina would intensify and the members of the contact group "would bear the responsibility for the extension of this war to other areas in Balkans."

All members of the contact group, especially those with influence over Serbs, Velayati said, have the responsibilty to force the Serbs accept their peace plan.

The Iranian official warned that if as a result of the rejection of the peace plan by Serbs, the Bosnian Muslims are not given the right to defend themselves against the continued aggression and the Security Council does not adopt measures to maximize its pressures against the Serbs, including sanctions, the Serbs would only take such an approach as a "green light to continue their abhorrent policies of terror and murder."

"As we have previously contended, we believe that the arms embargo against Bosnia-Herzegovina is illegal, immoral, impractical and non-applicable, and in the face of the rejection of the peace plan by Serbs, its continuation would be biased and one-sided," Velayati underlined.

Palestinian Affairs

Hamas Calls For Strike To Protest Appointments

TA0408183494 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] For the first time, the Islamic Movement in Gaza has called for a strike against 'Arafat's policy. Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] associates call for a quiet strike opposite the Gaza Municipality on Saturday [6 August] morning in order to protest the appointment of municipal councils by 'Arafat decrees, without elections. The protesters also demand that freedom of the press be maintained. Our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari notes it is for the first time that Hamas has adopted a public action against Yasir 'Arafat's moves.

Hamas Official: al-Zahhar Plan 'Personal Opinion'

JN0408201094 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 6-12 Aug 94 p 16

[Report by unidentified SHIHAN political affairs editor]

[Excerpts] The announcement by the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, about an alternative plan to peace with Israel has raised several questions on the policy of this movement in light of latest political developments in the region.

The plan announced by Mahmud al-Zahhar, one of Hamas leaders in the occupied territories, speaks about a peaceful solution with Israel through the full withdrawal

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from the territories occupied in 1967 and their placement in a trust with neutral parties until elections are held. The results of these elections should be binding to all parties. This was the first time that Hamas declared its readiness to negotiate with Israel on the basis of withdrawal and elections.

This change in the movement's political approach is considered a sharp turn in the movement's style and policy.

On this subject, Muhammad Nazzal, Hamas representative in Jordan, said this plan is not an alternative to Hamas policies, and that Mahmud al-Zahhar announcement is a sort of personal opinion, and this is something permissible by the movement, but there is no official acceptance of al-Zahhar's plan.

In a statement to SHIHAN on the recent political talk on changing Hamas into a political party, the Hamas representative in Jordan emphasized that so far there has been no official decision on forming a political party. He said this subject is still under study and consideration, adding that if there is an inclination to form a party, it will not be an alternative to the movement. He emphasized that in this case, the party will be open for all and not only for the movement's members. [passage omitted]

On preparations to confront the convening of the Palestine National Council [PNC] in Gaza to amend the Palestinian National Charter, Nazzal said Hamas has never been a PLO component, and the charter is for the PLO and not for the Palestinian people. He said the PLO is for [PLO Chairman Yasir] 'Arafat, therefore, Hamas does not recognize the PNC and its previous and future decisions.

He said the movement is not concerned with the PNC meeting, and this does not mean that Hamas will abandon its support for the factions opposed to the convening of the meeting if there is a program for this opposition, but in general this is Hamas' position.

Nazzal added 'Arafat is now relinquishing rights, and those who elected him in the Fatah and the PLO should bring him to account for this.

He emphasized that Hamas is opposed to political assassination in order not to open the door wide for a civil war and to save the Palestinian blood. [passage omitted]

Reaction to King Husayn Jerusalem Overflight Noted

JN0408194894

[Editorial Report] Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic during its 1415 GMT newscast on 4 August carries a 20-minute report on popular and official Palestinian reaction to King Husayn's overflight of Jerusalem.

The announcer says: "Observers considered King Husayn's flight over Jerusalem tantamount to a political raid that has future objectives, especially since it has come following last week's Israeli-Jordanian Washington Declaration, in accordance with which Jordan was granted a religious position over the holy sites."

In a telephone interview with the Voice of Palestine, Faysal al-Husayni, "head of the Palestinian team to the peace negotiations," said: "In fact, we should keep the issue of Jerusalem far from all the inter-Arab, inter-Islamic, Palestinian-Arab, or Palestinian-Islamic maneuverings and conflicts. We view the issue of Jerusalem very seriously. The battle for Jerusalem is coming. This is not the right time to differ on this or that issue. For this reason, we say that the issue of Jerusalem is subject to negotiations between us and the Israelis. Any other interests for any other party, whether an Arab, Islamic, or Jordanian party should be coordinated between us and the Jordanian brothers. Israel must not interfere in this issue."

Answering a question on whether there is coordination between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides, al-Husayni said: "Regrettably, coordination is not at the desired level. We hope that a Palestinian delegation will leave for Amman as soon as possible in order to regulate coordination and to put it back on its right course." Al-Husayni said that a delegation will leave for Amman next week.

Husayn Abu-Kuwayk, who is close to the Islamic Movement, said: "It is clear that the tempo of the peace talks is determined by the U.S. Administration and Israel. I believe that there are attempts to revive the Jordanian option."

He adds: "I want to remind the [Arab] leaders and kings that we are still under occupation, Jerusalem is still occupied, and the Palestinian people are still suffering from all the negative effects of occupation."

'Ali Abu-Hilal, member of the Palestine National Council, said: "I believe that yesterday's step falls within the framework of the agreement which will be concluded between Jordan and Israel regarding a peace treaty. Therefore, this step did not come as a surprise, but is within this framework."

He adds: "The serious point of this issue is that this step be a prelude to restore Jordan's political sovereignty over Jerusalem. We believe that Jerusalem is part of the occupied territories. No one can ignore the Palestinian sovereignty over Jerusalem within the framework of a final and lasting solution to the Palestine question."

Dr. Riyad al-Maliki, who is close to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], said: "Certainly, this Jordanian step has come to reinforce the recent Washington Declaration. This step is a translation of some of its clauses. The Declaration includes a clause on the opening of each side's airspace for the other side's passenger planes. This line was inaugurated by King Husayn's plane. The important point in the issue is that the plane's flight over Jerusalem yesterday has a very important political significance. It is a continuation of

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the confrontation which began after the Washington Declaration between Yasir 'Arafat and King Husayn. The Washington Declaration gave Jordan a special status over the holy places in Jerusalem. The Palestinian reply by Yasir 'Arafat was represented by the closure of the Jerusalem AL-NAHAR newspaper. The Jordanian reply was represented by King Husayn's overflight of Jerusalem. This is a continuation of the verbal and actual confrontation between Jordan and the Palestinians over the city of Jerusalem and the status of Jerusalem."

Other Palestinian reactions were reported in the occupied territories. PFLP Spokesman 'Abd-al-Latif Ghayth considered the overflight "part of the Jordanian-Israeli normalization process." He also termed it a symbolic step by King Husayn to confirm his religious right in the holy places. He said: "Despite this, what counts is that he who has the political sovereignty will have the religious and other jurisdiction."

'Umar 'Assaf, one of the leaders of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said that the overflight and King Husayn's statement on the Palestinian prisoners in the Israeli prisons constitute "a sign of the beginning of the return of the Jordanian option." 'Assaf stressed that King Husayn's previous statements on the holy sites prove that Jordan's religious jurisdiction over the holy places will be within the framework of the united Jerusalem under the Israeli sovereignty."

Samir Subayhat, PLO Central Council member and head of the General Union of Palestinian Students, described the overflight as a "Jordanian-Israeli maneuver to circumvent Palestinian authority." He said: "Our Palestinian people expected every material and political support from the Arab peoples and states. However, they were surprised by the new Jordanian rush to circumvent the issue of Jerusalem under the cover of the peace treaty between Jordan and Israel." He stressed that "Jerusalem is a first-class political issue. It is a symbol of the Palestinian independence and sovereignty." He said: "We will not allow Jordan, on a religious pretext, to undermine the essence of the Palestinian jurisdiction."

Shaykh Jamil Hamami [not further identified] said: "I understand that the care for the Islamic holy places in Jerusalem can be translated through liberating them from occupation. I cannot believe that there is a man who is trying to liberate them, along with the other territories, through statements which pour in the opposite direction of the Palestine question, which is the cause of all Arabs."

Executive Committee Secretary Returns to Gaza

TA0408152394 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 4 Aug 94 pp 1, 23

[Report by Jamal al-Halabi]

[Excerpts] Gaza—Jamal al-Surani, secretary of the PLO Executive Committee and one of the most prominent Palestinian leaders who founded the PLO, returned yesterday to the Gaza Strip through the Rafah terminal.

In an exclusive statement to AL-QUDS, al-Surani said: "I returned after an absence of more than 27 years." [passage omitted]

Al-Surani said that negotiations over Jerusalem should have begun before everything else, because apart from the refugee issue, the settlements, and the right to self-determination, Jerusalem is the core of the Palestinian problem. The United States bypassed all these issues to placate Israel amid a distressful Arab and a more distressful international situation.

On the convocation of a Palestine National Council [PNC] session in Gaza, al-Surani said: "I support the convocation of the PNC in a Palestinian state only. What I am calling for is early elections for a legislative council and a national authority, because the Palestinian Authority represents Gaza and the West Bank only, whereas the PNC represents all the Palestinian people and the entire Palestinian problem."

PLO's Hurani Criticizes National Authority

JN0508101994 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 5 Aug 94 p 21

[Report by Ahmad 'Abd-al-Majid]

[Text] Baghdad—'Abdallah Hurani, member of the PLO Executive Committee who opposes the peace process, has criticized the PLO leadership for relinquishing its political cards and for holding negotiations while lacking the components of a state. Hurani advised the leadership of the Palestinian [National] Authority [PNA] to use the last card—the National Charter—to force Israel to make concessions related to expanding the self-rule area so it includes the rest of the West Bank.

In an interview with AL-DUSTUR, Hurani said the PLO leadership does not consult Arab parties and forces. He said the political future of the Palestinians and Jordanians is a common one, due to the historical, geographical, social, economic, and cultural ties between the two people.

'Abdallah Hurani announced that he will end, in a few days, 35 years of exile during which he waged Palestinian struggle, adding that he is packing for his return to Gaza by the end of this month [August] or the beginning of next month. He said that he will continue his opposition to the Gaza-Jericho accord.

Hurani said that continuing the economic sanctions on Iraq aims at isolating Iraq and keeping it away from Arab action.

'Arafat Approves Passport Forms

JN0508084194 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0630 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] President Yasir 'Arafat yesterday approved forms of Palestinian passports and [postal] stamps. 'Abdallah

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al-Ifranji, Palestinian ambassador to Germany, said President 'Arafat will make some simple changes, taking into consideration the Palestinian- Israeli accord and the strong Palestinian desire to have a Palestinian identity. Al-Ifranji said he will print approximately 1,000,000 passports.

'Arafat To Supervise PNA Airport Construction

JN0508082894 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0630 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] Addressing Palestinian farmers in Gaza yesterday, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat said work at the emergency airport [mina' al-tawari'] will begin in 70 days to overcome Israeli export and import obstacles. He noted it is possible to use Port Said in Egypt and, this month, the Rafah crossing.

President 'Arafat said work at the Palestinian airport that will be established in the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] areas will begin in October. He said he will personally supervise the construction of the airport, which will receive the planes which will export Palestinian products.

PNA Financial Official Views Tax Collection

JN0408185694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Interview with Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, official in charge of financial affairs in the Palestinian National Authority, by Qol Yisra'el correspondent Sa'id Mu'addi; place and date not given from the "With the Events" program—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] The Palestinian National Authority, PNA, is calling on the commercial and business community to pay part of its income tax upfront. Has the structure of the income tax regime in the PNA been completed?

[Al-Nashashibi] The largely unproductive income tax regime we inherited from the Israeli authorities was ready to assume its duties and collect taxes as early as 17 May, 1994. Contrary to widespread belief, the staff of the taxing authority are working around the clock. The problem, though, is at your end. You have withheld documents detailing arrears and estimates and the financial status of the taxpayers. These are still held by the Israeli Finance Ministry. Repeated promises to surrender the documents to us have been broken. Personnel at the Customs and Value Added Tax [VAT] departments are also hard at work. Goods imported from Israel are entered into registers at checkpoints in order for us to be able to claim the required tax.

I assure you that the income tax, VAT, and customs departments are progressing well. We will send our cadres to training courses to acquire further experience. We are confident that our people will cooperate with the PNA institutions as they go about their business.

[Mu'addi] How much tax have you collected to date?

[Al-Nashashibi] I would rather not divulge any statistics.

[Mu'addi] Has the PNA the cash to spend on such areas as social affairs, tourism, and education throughout the West Bank?

[Al-Nashashibi] Certainly not; we are in a transitional stage. We have entered into talks with the World Bank and Holst Fund and (Kof Fund) to see whether they can help us close the budget deficit and provide us with funding for the police and security forces. However, once we collect taxes and custom tariffs our finances will be in a better shape.

[Mu'addi] Mr. Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, thank you so much.

[Al-Nashashibi] Thank you.

Norway To Finance Gaza Electricity Restoral

TA0508050194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] Norway has reportedly pledged a $22.5-million grant to the Palestinian Authority to restore the Gaza Strip's electricity network. The Palestinian in charge of finance, Muhammad al- Nashashibi, said he has already signed a memorandum of understanding with Norway's ambassador to Israel. Al-Nashashibi said the money would be taken through the World Bank, and Palestinian laborers would get to work immediately.

It is estimated that the project will take three years to be completed. Norway will reportedly provide the equipment and, within a week, send a technical team to prepare for the undertaking.

'Arafat Suspends Reporter for Signing Manifesto

TA0408164794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat has ordered AL-QUDS reporter Da'ud Kuttab suspended. The reason: Along with 40 other journalists, Da'ud Kuttab signed a manifesto against Yasir 'Arafat's decision to close the AL-NAHAR newspaper.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that AL-QUDS is the main PLO mouthpiece in East Jerusalem. For that reason, 'Arafat's order gave rise to anger and criticism among AL-QUDS reporters and Palestinian public figures in East Jerusalem.

Magazine Editor Views Closure, 'New Ruler'

JN0508104194 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 5 Aug 94 pp 1, 20

[Text] Amman—"I am sad because the magazine AKHBAR AL-BALAD and the newspaper AL-NAHAR were suspended. I am sad for what happened to my magazine and to AL-NAHAR and also because freedom

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of the press is indivisible." These words were uttered by Nasir-al-Din al-Nashashibi, a great writer and journalist, who has been working in journalism for 50 years and who is currently on a visit to Jordan after he had to suspend his magazine, AKHBAR AL-BALAD, following a host of threats.

Al-Nashashibi told AL-DUSTUR he received these threats when he considered publishing the magazine in Jerusalem. Letters, fax messages, and telephone calls carried threats against al-Nashashibi, who said that these threats were cowardly, as he put it. He also wondered: Why did this happen before they knew the magazine's line and policy? He said his objective and that of the magazine is to show the image of Jerusalem and highlight it to the world as an occupied city.

He said: There were many threats, as if Jerusalem is not occupied and as if the [Israeli] settlements do not exist. We, however, continued to issue the magazine against all odds. AKHBAR AL-BALAD continued to be published and drew much attention. It was hailed by the foreign press club in Jerusalem. However, they found out that the magazine was serious and that its slogan was political research. Thus, the campaign continued and was joined by Arab embassies, because I wrote an article against Camp David. I do not deny taking this position.

Al-Nashashibi added: There are parties which do not want to work and do not like others to work. I am against the Oslo agreement, whereas Jordan supports it. As a Palestinian and a Jerusalem resident, I am still against the Oslo agreement because it virtually gave us nothing. I said this in radio interviews in the past. I agree and disagree with others. Thus, I agree and disagree with Jordan, despite the fact that I love Jordan.

He said: Jibril al-Rujub, official in charge of security in the Palestinian National Authority, verbally abused me on Israeli television and accused me of having a relationship with His Majesty King Husayn and a past relationship with [Former] President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir. These relationships are a source of honor to me.

Al-Nashashibi added: I worked for the Egyptian newspaper AL-THAWRAH, and the great author, Taha Husayn, was my colleague. I had the honor of working with the late His Majesty King 'Abdallah and with his grandson, His Majesty King Husayn. Al-Rujub definitely forgot that he is a security officer, so he should not have said this and should not oppress the other opinion. They asked me to obtain a permit to issue the magazine in Gaza. Why should I obtain a permit from Gaza? In my opinion, the issue is not one of getting a permit but one of charged hearts.

He said: I cannot live under only one opinion. I have been working for 50 years. I worked with 'Abd-al-Nasir and I had differences with him. After I wrote 10,000 articles, 'Abd-al-Nasir transferred me to the chief editor's office of the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH.

Regarding the possibility of reissuing AKHBAR AL-BALAD, writer al-Nashashibi said: I may reissue it in Jordan. I closed down the magazine in Jerusalem and paid compensation to those who worked with me. Yes, I did so because the new ruler did not want the magazine to live. He also does not want a fine press.

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Algeria

Islamists Said 'Up Against the Wall'

LD0408141794 Paris France-2 Television Network in French 1100 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Interview with Leila Aslaoui, youth and sports minister and government spokeswoman, by Daniel Bilalian; Aslaoui in Algiers and Bilalian in studio—live]

[Text] [Bilalian] Good afternoon, Mrs. Aslaoui. Can you hear me? Mrs. Aslaoui, the first reaction of the Algerian Government this morning was to say that in order to carry out such actions, the Islamist fanatics must be up against the wall. Couldn't one turn the phrase around and say that for such an attack to be able to happen, perhaps it is the Algerian Government itself that is somewhat up against the wall?

[Aslaoui] No, not at all. First of all, I want to say on behalf of the government that we condemn very, very strongly this barbaric attack. We offer our most sincere condolences to the families of the victims. We believe that those involved are criminals who are right up against the wall, because the way in which they show their presence, in violence, in killings, aimed at Algerians and at foreigners, and the increasing number of these killings, shows clearly that they express themselves in a negation of the civilizational and spiritual values to which the Algerian people are attached, and so this can only be a sign of...

[Bilalian, interrupting] Weakness, you say.

[Aslaoui] Despair, and we are convinced that these are people who are right up against the wall.

[Bilalian] Excuse me for interrupting you. After all, an armed commando, a real military operation this time, in the daytime, in the middle of Algiers, against a foreign delegation, isn't necessarily an indication that you are fully in control of the situation? All the more so since there is talk of a real civil war situation in the rest of the country. I know it is difficult to affirm this, but it is said that every day there are real armed actions all over the country?

[Aslaoui] You know, if you are thinking simply of car bombs, you can't say that each time there is a car bomb anywhere in the world that we should be talking of civil war and Lebanonization. In my country, in Algeria, today, there are indeed some very difficult moments, but there is no civil war. It is just that armed groups of criminals have taken up arms against the republic. The other Algerians are innocent victimes of these criminals. So there is no civil war, there is no Lebanonization, and the security situation is under control.

[Bilalian] A last question: the French Government has said via Mr. Juppe and Mr. Leotard that it will remain in Algeria, even if the number of French citizens decreases by the day. French people find it hard to imagine how you, the Algerian Government, can get out of the quagmire you find yourselves in. How can you get out of this situation? By negotiating? Pacifying the country? Taking even stronger armed action?

[Aslaoui] You know, we are not in a quagmire. It is the others who have got into a quagmire. I would simply say today that the National Conference did not close the doors on dialogue with those forces who favor a free and democratic Algeria, but in any case...

[Bilalian, interrupting] Does this completely rule out the Islamists?

[Aslaoui] At a time when there is a very clear desire by the authorities to achieve economic and social recovery, those criminals are aiming for the destabilization and isolation of Algeria, by hitting very hard at foreigners, murdering them—and allow me to pay tribute in passing to all those friendly countries, including France, who have not abandoned their solidarity with Algeria, in spite of all these terrible moments.

[Bilalian] One last thing, Madame. Do you think that your government can still negotiate with the Islamists, either the moderates, or the diehards?

[Aslaoui] There has never been a question of negotiating with the armed groups, with the diehard Islamists, as you call them. We are simply saying—and this has been said by the president many times in his speeches—we are simply saying that those who want a free and democratic Algeria must support dialogue today, because that is what will enable Algeria to remain on its feet.

[Bilalian] Thank you.

FIS Sources: France Should Guard Neutrality

MM0408135094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 Aug 94 pp1, 4

[Reports by Kamil al-Tawil in London and AL-HAYAH bureaus in Paris and Washington: "Attempt To Detonate Car Bomb at French Complex; Salvation Front Urges Paris To Be 'Neutral'"]

[Excerpts] Five French nationals, including three military personnel, were killed in the Algerian capital yesterday in an attack by an armed group on a residential complex occupied by French nationals. There would have been a human catastrophe had the attackers succeeded in bringing a car bomb into the complex. [passage omitted]

In London, AL-HAYAH asked a responsible source in the Executive Committee of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] abroad, which is headed by Rabeh Kebir, about the FIS position on the killing of the French nationals. He replied that the FIS is not against foreigners in Algeria, but he emphasized that France should abide by the "principle of neutrality" when addressing the Algeria question. The source said: "We recall the position of the FIS as a matter of principle. We have repeatedly declared

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that we are not against foreigners whether they are French or not, but attention should be drawn to the French position which rejects the people's choice, turns its back on democracy, and gives military dictatorship maximum support, which is a flagrant provocation of the Algerian people."

Asked about "the role of the French gendarmarie in Algeria," he said: "The notion in the minds of some French officials that 'Algeria is French' must be erased and the Algerian issue should be tackled on the basis that the Algerian people are free and independent people and that they are masters in their own homeland, like all other peoples, completely free to choose their own system of government and rulers, which means that France should adhere to the principle of neutrality on the Algerian question."

AL-HAYAH also asked Anouar Haddam, chairman of the FIS Parliamentary Committee abroad, for his comment on the killing of the French nationals. He replied: "Algeria is in a state of war. In a previous statement, we suggested that foreigners should leave the country and that they could return to Algeria when security prevails and power returns to those chosen by the people in the elections. We would then have good relations with all our country's friends. It is a war declared by the putschists on the Algerian people."

Asked what his position would be if the Armed Islamic Group [GIA] claimed responsibility for the operation, bearing in mind that he had supported "unity of the mujahidin" under it, he replied: "We are against attacks on innocent people and we have adopted principled positions on the matter. The main problem is that the putschists are responsible for all that is happening. France considers itself a concerned party and it most insolently interferes in our internal affairs."

On the announcement by the Executive Committee abroad about his split from the FIS together with Ahmed Zaoui, another official, he said: "We are still in the FIS and I am still chairman of the FIS Parliamentary Committee abroad. We acknowledge the authority of, above all, FIS Leader Cheik Abbasi Madani, his deputy Ali Belhadj, and the leadership represented by the Provisional Executive Bureau and all its members in Algeria and out of prison. That bureau makes the political decisions and our stands are but an expression of that situation. We support the unity of the mujahidin announced on 13 May but that does not mean the disintegration of the FIS. The FIS is still a political party elected by the people. What did occur was military unity of the mujahidin." [passage omitted]

FIS's Kebir Attacks French Policy

LD0408194794 Paris France-2 Television Network in French 1800 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] Algerian Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] leader Rabah Kebir lives in Bonn. Earlier, he spoke to Didier Epelbaum, and reiterated his view that France's policy toward Algeria is a direct provocation, even though he condemned the latest attack:

[Begin recording] [Kebir, in Arabic, with superimposed French translation] I think we have been quite clear: We are against these attacks, and we condemn them.

[Epelbaum] So you also condemn this latest attack?

[Kebir] From a general point of view we are totally against attacks aimed at foreigners, for we have nothing against them. We are against the dictatorship in the country. We call on the outside world to help the Algerian people against this dictatorship. Unfortunately, this is not in fact happening in the case of the French leadership, and we regret this.

Today, I saw Mr. Pasqua [French interior minister] appearing on television. I got the impression he was talking about Algeria, but in fact he was talking about French affairs. I feel that this is an interference in Algerian domestic affairs, and this could result in consequences which would not be desirable. I think that it is in the interest of France to look at reality and to understand that the Algerian people are an independent people.

[Epelbaum] Is violence legitimate in certain instances?

[Kebir] I think that the Algerian people, with the FIS at its head, has tried all possible political methods. We twice participated in elections; we won these elections, and the people won these elections. We have tried all forms of peaceful solution, but this was not possible. The authorities annulled the results, and, unfortunately, France backed them. I would therefore say that some acts are justified in order to achieve our revolution. [end recording]

GIA Claims Responsibility for French Killings

MM0508102994 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 Aug 94 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Armed Islamic Group Claims Responsibility for Killing Five French Nationals in Algeria"]

[Excerpts] Algiers, Paris, London, AL-HAYAH—The Armed Islamic Group [GIA] has claimed responsibility for killing the five French nationals in Algeria. France yesterday asked the German and U.S. Governments to curb the activities of the Algerian Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] leaders on their territories. [passage omitted]

A statement issued by the GIA, a copy of which was received by AL-HAYAH, said that "at 0730 on Wednesday one of the group's units attacked a residential complex occupied by Jews and Christians, allocated by the renegade and infidel government for the protection of foreigners of all kinds. It is located in the Ain Allah area in the town of El Cheraka [as transliterated]. The mujahidin killed three members of the French special force (gendarmerie) which was guarding the area

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and two employees of the Christian French Embassy and wounded another Christian who was moved to hospital immediately in a serious condition. The GIA's bombing and sabotage unit also parked a car bomb inside the building, but it did not explode." [passage omitted]

A statement issued in Washington by Anouar Haddam, head of the FIS' parliamentary mission abroad, said: "We have heard with great concern about the French defense minister's visit to Algeria. That constitutes a serious turning point for the Algerian question. The parliamentary mission abroad sees that irresponsible move by the French Government as a first step toward the internationalization of the Algerian issue. Reviving the painful memory of the French colonialist military presence in Algeria is certainly not in the interest of the French people. The parliamentary mission believes that any assistance to Algeria not aimed at promoting a peaceful solution that would restore constitutional legitimacy would be an assistance to the military regime in its war against the Algerian people and their right to choose their political authority." [passage omitted]

Transitional Council Adopts Membership Rules

LD0508073594 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] Members of the Transitional National Council [TNC], meeting since this morning at the TNC headquarters, passed the draft decree on the TNC membership rules. We review the outcome thus far of the meeting with Rachida Hammadi.

At its plenary session this morning the TNC passed the draft decree on the rules on council membership. The government was represented at this session by the minister of justice, the minister of war veterans, the minister delegate to the finance minister in charge of the budget, and the secretary general of the government.

At the beginning, the rapporteur of the Legislation, Legal, and Administrative Committee pointed out that the amendments introduced to the draft decree deal mainly with the rules on conflict of interests, delegation and follow-up of the political, economic, and social developments in the society. The adoption of the draft will now allow the completion of the texts on the council's constitution in line with the targets set out by the platform of national consensus on the transitional period.

At the afternoon session, 20 members were elected to represent Algeria at the Arab Maghreb Union Consultative Council. Also members representing the TNC at the Constitutional Council were chosen.

Protocol Signed With Saudi Arabia for Legumes

LD0508074494 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Excerpt] A Saudi-Algerian agreement to provide the Algerian market with several kinds of legumes over a three-year period, was signed today at the Mithaq Residence between the Algerian grains office and the Saudi commercial firm, Samahir. Details of the agreement with our correspondent.

[Unidentified correspondent] It is the first protocol between the Algerian grains office and the Saudi commercial firm, Samahir, in order to supply the Algerian market with several kinds of legumes for a three year period. The agreement opens wide prospects for economic cooperation between the two countries and for the introduction of modern agricultural production technology especially in drought- ridden areas. The agreement also covered training of agricultural cadres and workers.

It has also been agreed that Samahir would play the role of broker between Algeria and banks and financial institutions to facilitate the granting of loans to cover Algeria's needs in this sector. It is to be noted that the Saudi firm, Samahir, is a commercial establishment and has a wide experience in international trade and investments in real estate. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Foreign Minister Declares Disarmament Aims

NC0408182894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1535 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] Geneva, 4 Aug (MENA)—Egypt announced today that disarmament efforts should lead to a stable security balance and reduced armament levels in the Middle East.

This came in a speech delivered by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to the Geneva Conference on Disarmament. He said that continually changing world conditions provide an opportunity to reformulate international relations, remedy errors, and redirect the world's efforts toward establishing an international community based on equality where peace and security prevail. He declared that security for all nations must always remain a priority. The foreign minister remarked that in defining its position on security and disarmament issues, Egypt gives priority to its national interests and the safety of its people and territory and on this basis it examines the implications of any disarmament proposal to Egyptian national security in the context of its regional location in the Middle East, Africa, and the southern part of the Mediterranean.

Musa specified the three criteria that govern Egypt's attitude to regional disarmament: First, disarmament measures must produce a stable security balance in the Middle East; second, they must effectively reduce arms levels; third, they must apply to all the region's countries. The foreign minister asserted that these three criteria have been the farsighted criteria by which efforts should have been made to achieve security with the lowest possible level of arms worldwide. [sentence as received]

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He declared that current regional circumstances call for tangible and far-reaching disarmament measures that go beyond anything that was pursued until a few months ago. He explained that this is necessary in view of the recent regional changes, including the recent start of the Mediterranean Forum dialogue in Alexandria and political changes in Africa and the Middle East.

'Amr Musa said that the Middle Eastern nations are determined to settle their historical differences to create a new Middle East involving an arms reduction and regional security system. He noted that this is possible now that the region has opened wide the doors to peace.

He voiced hope that the recent developments in the negotiations between the Israelis, Palestinians, and Jordanians and the imminent progress expected on the Syrian and Lebanese negotiating tracks will put an early end to the past system and create a region free of weapons of mass destruction, nuclear, chemical, and biological.

He added that this new system must involve the adherence of all the region's countries, including Israel, to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. 'Amr Musa said he hopes that the disarmament talks will produce a treaty providing for a total ban on nuclear tests. He also voiced hope that this treaty, in addition to stopping any increase in existing nuclear stockpiles, will also prevent the appearance of any new nuclear power.

He said that Egypt believes such a treaty is vital and must be promptly concluded. Musa added that the continued existence of huge nuclear arsenals in various parts of the world and the lack of any sign that they will be dismantled makes "passive security guarantees" one of the major concerns of nonnuclear countries, particularly those who have decisively rejected the nuclear option.

The Egyptian foreign minister expressed hope that the remaining sessions of the third part of the 1994 Conference on Disarmament will produce "noticeable progress" on the question of passive nuclear guarantees. He conveyed Egypt's satisfaction with the fact that the issue of making major reductions in nuclear arsenals is again at the forefront of the world community's interest 40 years after the issue was first proposed.

'Amr Musa emphasized Egypt's backing for the establishment of a special committee within the Conference on Disarmament that would try to conclude a multilateral treaty banning the production of any new fissionable material. He noted that for such a treaty to be effectively implementable, it must deal with the issue of the "existing stockpile of fissionable material" and make such material subject to international inspection. The foreign minister concluded his speech by pointing out that the next few months, preceding the 1995 Conference on Extending the Nuclear Weapons Treaty, will witness concrete progress in nuclear disarmament and weapons inspection.

Comments on Contact Group

NC0508105294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] Geneva, 5 Aug (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has called on the International Contact Group on Bosnia, consisting of the United States, Russia, Germany, France, and Britain, to shoulder its responsibilities toward the recently proposed peace plan, which was rejected by the Bosnian Serbs.

He pointed out that the International Contact Group previously affirmed that if a party rejects its peace plan for Bosnia, it will be subjected to sanctions. He said the contact group countries must apply these sanctions. 'Amr Musa made his remarks in Geneva yesterday after participating in the meetings of the Islamic Contact Group on Bosnia.

In his statements, Musa stated the need for the Security Council to shoulder its responsibilities toward the recent developments in Bosnia and the Serb rejection of the peace plan proposed by the International Contact Group. He said the European countries must also rise to the responsibility and keep their promises. Egypt's foreign minister said the Bosnian Government needs to be given support under these special circumstances, especially as it has accepted a plan that is unfair to it.

Regarding the decisions made by the Islamic Contact Group in Geneva yesterday, Musa said these resolutions might not be enough but were made in light of the current situation, especially after the Bosnian Serbs rejected the international Contact Group's plan, which was accepted by the Bosnian Government. Yesterday's decisions by the Islamic Contact Group in Geneva call on the Security Council to review its decision imposing a ban on exporting weapons to the warring parties in Bosnia and to allow the Bosnian Muslims to arm and defend themselves, particularly after the Bosnian Serbs rejected the international peace plan, which stipulates dividing Bosnia-Herzegovina—51 percent to the Muslims and Croats and 49 percent to the Serbs.

On the Serbian decision to close roads leading to Sarajevo, Musa said that this is considered proof of Serbian stubbornness. The Security Council and European Union countries must take a stance against the Serbs, either by the Council expanding, strengthening, or increasing the scope of sanctions against the Serbs or through European action to stop the aggression. He said the Bosnians have the right to legally defend themselves and lift the ban imposed on them to get weapons. He said the Islamic Contact Group on Bosnia will continue contacts with the Security Council and the International Contact Group to follow up on the situation in Bosnia.

On the meetings of the Geneva Conference on Disarmament in which Egypt is taking part, Musa said Egypt views the spread of nuclear weapons in the Middle East from the perspective of the new situation in the region. The basis of this new situation is disarmament. He

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added: You cannot look at the countries in the Middle East from the point of view of two opposing groups with several countries on one side and one country on the other.

In this regard, he affirmed the importance of having all the parties adhere to specific bases and work on limiting armament for all. All the parties should be treated equally because you cannot accept a policy discriminating between two countries in the same region. A policy that discriminates against one side or in favor of another is not fair, because one country is given privileges and new tension is created in the region.

He clarified that peace cannot be established by merely withdrawing and normalizing relations. And there can be no peace or talk of economic cooperation while distinctions are made in security issues on this level. He said Egypt clarified this point the day before yesterday before the disarmament conference in Geneva.

Commentary Underscores Role in Regional Peace

NC0408142694 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Commentary by Muhammad Sharaf: "The Arab, Regional, and International Tributaries of Egypt's Peace Role"]

[Text] According to all the signs, the peace operation between Israel and the directly concerned Arab parties has reached a stage where comprehensive inter-Arab consultations regarding some of its important aspects must be held. It is known that in this historic change in the Middle East, Egypt has the basic role of expressing the general Arab policies on peace. All the regional and international parties directly or indirectly involved in the peace process acknowledge this role.

We say this in light of revelations made by official Egyptian Foreign Ministry sources that Egypt is contacting Arab countries to brief them on President Husni Mubarak's talks with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Taba last Sunday. It goes without saying that the interim results as well as the final outcome of the peace negotiations concern all Arab countries. So the Arab countries must help to formulate these results collectively.

We repeat that a permanent and strong Egyptian presence and effective participation in this process are the basic channel through which collective Arab views on every development are expressed.

Naturally Egypt is not expropriating any Arab country's private position on any peace development but, in view of its Arab, regional, and international influence, it is perfectly qualified to express the collective Arab position on the details of the peace process. We hardly need emphasize that the Arab parties directly involved in the peace negotiations with Israel have the right to make their own decisions about their own affairs.

But a collective and indisputable Arab responsibility remains, because the Middle East peace process is closely linked with the collective stability and security of Arab and non-Arab Middle Eastern nations. Another acknowledged fact is that the achievement of regional peace will mark a new stage of political, economic, social, and cultural relations among the region's countries.

In light of the foregoing, what we want to stress becomes clear. The Arab-Israeli peace process does not concern merely the directly involved parties except in connection with the issues that concern them in particular. Apart from this, the peace process concerns all Arab and non-Arab regional countries in addition to the countries bordering the region and, indeed, every country, big and small. This is so because the world has vital interests in this region.

While territorial, border, water, environmental, and economic issues concern the directly involved parties in the talks with Israel, the agreements concluded on these issues might very well have clear repercussions for the vital interests of Arab and other nations in this region.

It is also acknowledged that there are several major collective issues in connection with the Middle East peacemaking exercise. Prominent among these are regional economic ties and conditions in peace time, conventional and unconventional weapons, the environment, refugees, and other affairs being discussed by the multilateral talks that parallel the bilateral peace negotiations. Egypt plays a vital role in establishing regional peace and there are Arab, regional, and international tributaries to this vital role.

Joint Committee Agrees on Projects With Libya

NC0408135494 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] The Higher Egyptian-Libyan Joint Committee concluded its fourth session in Cairo today under Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and engineer 'Abd-al-Majid al-Qa'ud, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee. Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif stated that Prime Minister Sidqi stressed at the conclusion of the committee's work that the session was successful, noting that a number of vital projects were discussed that serve the interests of the two fraternal peoples. He said that the session produced positive results that will promote ties and enhance cooperation and integration between the two countries. Dr. Sidqi noted that vital projects on which agreement was reached include a railway line between Sidi Barrani and Tobruk, an electrical grid linking the two countries, and cooperation in the fields of oil, agriculture, and industry.

Al-Sharif said that al-Qa'ud stressed at the final session that the two countries enjoy excellent relations and that he praised his meeting with President Mubarak. He noted that President Mubarak is an Arab leader who adopted historic and honorable stands. He said that

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President Mubarak sided with Libya and sought to help it settle the Lockerbie crisis. He noted the telephone call between President Mubarak and brother leader al-Qadhdhafi to follow up on the Higher Committee's work, especially the main joint projects—the electric grid, highways and railways, and the laying of an oil pipeline between Egypt and Libya.

At the conclusion of its work, the Higher Egyptian-Libyan Joint Committee issued a statement in which it stressed the deep fraternal relations between the two countries and peoples. The statement said that the committee made important progress toward cooperation in all fields. At the end of the meeting two cooperation agreements on agriculture and livestock were signed.

Libyan Delegation Departs

NC0408150794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1445 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 4 Aug (MENA)—Engineer 'Abd-al-Majid al-Qa'ud, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee, and his delegation left Cairo today after a four-day visit to Egypt during which he led the Libyan delegation to the meetings of the Egyptian-Libyan Higher Joint Committee.

Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, who led the Egyptian delegation to the talks, saw al-Qa'ud off at the airport.

Defense Minister Returns From China, Pakistan

NC0408193594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1620 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 4 Aug (MENA)—Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, minister of defense and war production, returned to Cairo after a one-week tour of China and Pakistan. He held talks with officials from both countries on ways to strenghten cooperation between them and Egypt.

Sudan

Al-Turabi Willing To Mediate in Algeria

LD0408161594 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Interview with Islamic National Front leader Hassan al-Turabi with Chantal Lorho; place and date not given—recorded; first paragraph is announcer introduction]

[Text] Our guest today is Hassan al-Turabi, the leader of the Sudanese Islamic National Front. He is the ideologue of the regime of Khartoum and the eminence grise of General al-Bashir. Hassan al-Turabi is currently taking part in a seminar organized by the University of Madrid, in Spain, on Islamic fundamentalism. Hassan al-Turabi stated a few days ago that Islamic fundamentalism will sweep through North Africa. Chantal Lorho asked him whether the advance of fundamentalism is inevitable in his opinion:

[Al-Turabi] Islamic history has been marked by centuries of decline and renaissance. History tells us that when Muslims experience a renaissance, they slowly lift themselves up to match the values of Islam. I think this will happen in north Africa because most of north Africa is Muslim. There are secular and materialistic governments which are not interested in religion, having superficial structures. But now with elections, and the importance of the masses and society, people will be able to express themselves at the political, economic and cultural levels of society, as they are starting to do in the Arab world.

[Lorho] What about the training camps for the radical fundamentalists?

[Al-Turabi] They don't exist. Come and see Sudan. Not a single foreign national is being trained in Sudan. Nobody, nobody.

[Lorho] Last December, you organized in Khartoum a conference that gathered together hundreds of Islamic fundamentalists who came from everywhere in the world. Will this allow you today to play the role of mediator, for instance, in the Algerian crisis?

[Al-Turabi] Yes.

[Lorho] Who is listening to you and who received you among the Algerians?

[Al-Turabi] Perhaps both at the moment, the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] and the FLN [National Liberation Front]. They are my friends. Ben Bella is my friend and knows me well. Basically, the government is now ready because it has realized that it is impossible to remain in power in this way.

[Lorho] This would be to make contacts between the Islamists of the FIS and the government, but what about the armed groups, like the GIA [Armed Islamic Group], for example?

[Al-Turabi] (?Between these groups and) the FIS, and even the others which are armed—there are other armed organizations—but I am able to establish contacts with them. There are other sides, which belong to neither one nor the other, who are interested. I am even ready to cooperate with everyone.

[Lorho] You say other sides?

[Al-Turabi] Yes [laughs], that is private.

[Lorho] You mean other sides in Algeria, or...?

[Al-Turabi, interrupts] [Laughs] Outside Algeria.

[Lorho] Could France also play a role in these contacts?

[Al-Turabi] France, or Spain, should play a role. I would always rather that progress toward Islam should be along

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the path of gradual, sincere evolution, because it is a religion, it is not a political coup, a socialist coup, or anything. But if there is no way but revolution—a revolution is an explosion, like the French revolution—the explosion will affect everyone around Algeria.

[Lorho] And do you think there is still time to avoid the explosion, the revolution?

[Al-Turabi] Oh yes, I think so. I think so. Because I sometimes speak—not directly, but through intermediaries—with FIS people and others, and the Islamic movement everywhere, left and right, of Algeria.

[Lorho] So, the people will be ready to hold discussions?

[Al-Turabi] Yes, they are ready to discuss, to recognize a road to democracy that is free for everyone, (?going) to Islam directly, or in a century—it is for democracy to determine the future, the destiny, of North Africa.

Rebel Commander Reportedly Defects

EA0408162294 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Commander John Kulang, chief of staff of the forces of Riak Machar, returned to the country this morning from the ranks of the rebel movement. He will hold a news conference at 1000 this morning at the Friendship Hall, at which time he will explain the conditions surrounding his separation from the rebel movement and his response to the peace appeal. [passage omitted]

Claims Rebels on Defensive

EA0408210594 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] The returnee John Kulang, who was chief of general staff for Riak Machar's rebel United Faction, has returned to the fold of the homeland. He held a news conference this morning at the Friendship Hall in Khartoum, in which he exposed the secrets of the rebel movement and of the opposition and Israel's link with the movement. He said that the movement is breathing its last breath. Regarding the cease-fire, John Kulang explained that the rebels have taken up defensive positions. He said that the real reasons behind his return to the homeland was his conviction in the principles of the revolution.

Military Claims Rebels Violate Cease-Fire

EA0408161594 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 4 Aug (SUNA)—The general command of the People's Armed Forces reported today that the rebel movement had violated the cease-fire by encroaching on Sudanese Armed Forces' positions on 28 and 30 July in the areas of (Mawriyu) and Nimule, and that they opened fire on government forces with various types of weapons. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

New Extremist Group Differs With Ennahda

MM0408152494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 Aug 94 p4

[Report by Jamal Khashuqji: "New Tunisian Movement Condemns 'Ennahda's Flexibility'"]

[Text] London—As the leadership of the Tunisian Ennahda Movement comes under pressure from some of its more moderate members in favor of reconciliation with the Tunisian regime, some circles are worried about the acivities of another extremist Islamic group which advocates armed action and follows an intransigent Salafi line [reference to the Salafiyah Islamic reform movement founded in Egypt by Muhammad 'Abduh] which runs contrary to the middle-of-the-road moderate line which Ennahda sources say is advocated by Ennahda Movement's Leader Rachid Ghanouchi.

The new extremist Tunisian movement announced itself under the name of "the Islamic Salvation Front." In Vienna it has a publication called EL RAJA which is widely distributed in Europe and is sent by mail to some Arab states. The new movement says that it follows the path of "al-Sunnah [the prophet's teachings] and al-Jama'ah [the Group]" and "armed jihad." Tunisia had in the past witnessed armed action by hardline elements when tourist facilities were blown up in 1985. Their leader then was Habib Dawi who was later executed, and it later transpired that he was not a member of Ennahda.

The new group is said to follow Dawi's line. In its articles, it has criticized Ennahda, especially Ghanouchi, Ennahda's leader, and his renunciation of violence. It has taken a noticeably positive position regarding Saleh Karkar, who is currently under house arrest in France. According to Tunisian sources, the movement has contacted Karkar, who is known for his criticism of Ghanouchi, blaming him for the Tunisian Islamic movement's current crisis because of what he described as "his (Ghanouchi's) excessive flexibility."

The sources say that the main leading figure in the new movement is Mohamed Ali Lehrani who belongs to the Salafi trend and at present moves between European capitals. It is difficult to differentiate between the new movement and the Tunisian Jihad Movement expelled by the Sudanese authorities from Khartoum last year after Ennahda affirmed that it had nothing to do with it.

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Kuwait

Minister Blames Budget Deficit on Liberation Costs

LD0408153094 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Nasir 'Abdallah al-Rawdan Nasir, the second deputy prime minister and minister of finance, says that the Kuwaiti economy has regained its natural state and stability.

In an interview to the London-based Lebanese magazine AL-HAWADITH, he said that the government is now preoccupied with the development of the country's economy to make the latter better able to perform its role.

He affirmed that the budget deficit resulted from the huge amounts spent on the liberation and reconstruction of the State of Kuwait and the drop in investment returns. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Israel Accused of 'Sidestep' Tactics on Jerusalem

MM0408154194 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Aug 94 p 9

[Editorial: "For the Sake of the Arabs, Not Saudi Arabia. Israel Is Trying To Subdue Saudi Decisionmaking by Provoking Media Uproar Whose Aims Are Clear and Exposed"]

[Text] It is no longer a secret that Israel, backed by media services—regional and international—and strategic ideology, has over the past three weeks persisted in exercising what it considers pressures on Saudi decisionmaking vis-a-vis two important questions:

The first is the holy Jerusalem issue with the religious importance it represents to Muslims, Arabs, Christians, and Jews.

The Saudi position on this issue is both clear and fixed and cannot be bargained over or circumvented, because this holy city has its known history and standing. And all its present features confirm the legitimate right of an Arab people, the Palestinian people. All their homes and streets...mosques and churches, every stone confirm this right.

In this connection it is absolutely meaningless to sidestep or circumvent the Jerusalem issue. Unless it is addressed clearly, anything else will be considered a waste of time and a violation of a fundamental right which no one is entitled to argue over, tamper with, or deny.

Israel is trying to defer this confrontation and to single out Arab negotiators individually in order to insinuate one phrase here or there with a view to shaking the Arab and Islamic position on holy Jerusalem, focusing its campaign on the Saudi position, on the grounds that it is the the most resolute and fixed.

It has not realized that these attempts will not benefit peace and that sidestepping Jerusalem is impossible and will lead to nothing vis-a-vis the achievement of a real peace.

The second question is the rush to reach formal agreements as though they are merely a publicity stunt designed to calm down world public opinion, which is seeking a peaceful end to the Arab-Israel conflict.

Saudi Arabia views endeavors to end this conflict as a serious and genuine action, not merely a formal disengagement that is bound to explode the moment it is announced.

Peace issues cannot be achieved through these superficial media methods as long as the real intentions are to achieve nothing of that, but, rather, to try to secure Arab or Islamic agreements to illegal usurpations, even without real agreement.

The position on the "Gaza-Jericho" Oslo agreement confirmed this. It appeared as though it was merely a formal pretext designed to enable Israel to begin a similar bargaining process with the other Arab parties.

This method leads to nothing. And unless the credibility of the agreements concluded by Israel is consolidated by real approval from the other parties away from the method of subjugation it is using against Arab negotiators, subsequent steps will achieve nothing.

Here is the "Gaza-Jericho" agreement—and it is the main one—faltering. And every day a new Israeli position emerges to conflict with the spirit of this agreement, which was accepted by the Palestinians and the Arab and Islamic parties in general as a first step toward a full agreement under which the territories seized in the 1967 war, first and foremost holy Jerusalem, would be returned to their legitimate owners, the Palestinian people.

But the world as a whole is seeing something else. In fact "Gaza and Jericho" do not fully belong to the Palestinians yet, as every day a new pretext is announced and Israel's interference, restrictions, and conditions become clearer, to the point that the Palestinian presence has become merely a presence on a land under complete Israeli domination.

And Israel continues to insist on the presence of the armed Israeli settlements, thus maintaining tension and a situation capable of exploding at any moment. Gaza, which has over the past period been under Israel's full surveillance, has suddenly become full of weapons, and many problems capable of igniting for the simplest of reasons have been planted in it.

This tampering with the peace issue is so clear that any serious observer cannot believe that what is happening on the scene are really peace measures.

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And if nothing of Palestinian self-rule has been achieved on the ground until now, how can the other agreements be passed over.

Whatever Israel's media influence, the facts cannot be eclipsed by media noise, campaigns, and various allegations.

Actually Israel entered the the peace negotiations as a result of the pressure exerted by world public opinion and after the exposure of Israel's repression against the Palestinian people. The world's vision became clear after the end of the Cold War, which filled the sky of political life with clouds. So it became necessary to return the land to its owners after all pretexts became null and void in terms of recognition of Israel's existence and the signing of peace agreements.

All the indications are that as a result of this world pressure Israel is trying ostensibly to respond to this pressure but sidestep it in practice, namely by perpetuating its usurpation of the land under peace slogans that have no substance. And because Saudi Arabia has not engaged in this media campaign, and because Riyadh's policy is seeking to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region, an Israeli campaign has been launched against it with a view to making Saudi decisionmaking comply with Israeli strategic aims.

And as usual, Israel is trying to distort the Saudi position and circumvent marginal and secondary issues, ignoring the depth of the historic and religious Saudi responsibility, which we do not believe Saudi Arabia is going to abandon because of propagandistic cries here or there. As far as the Kingdom, Arabs, and Muslims are concerned, this responsibility cannot be discussed in such a simple manner as Israel thinks.

And if some Arabs are claiming that they have been surprised by the decisive Saudi position, it is because they do not read the history which characterizes Riyadh's orientations vis-a-vis the Arab-Israeli conflict. Saudi Arabia is pursuing a clear rational policy. And in its long-time dealings with the Palestinian issue, that is since the thirties, it has not abandoned this policy, which realizes that there are points which no quarter can ignore or sidestep. They relate to holy places, history, and the principle of legitimacy. And if that happens, it will be doomed to absolute failure. And no quarter that is truthful with itself can regard an unrealistic peace or a peace based on media publicity only as peace.

This position is not a hard line or rigidity. It is linked to the essence of what is human, to the sacred aspect in people's lives. It has to do with appreciating it, respecting it, and working to serve it.

This is why it was no coincidence for the world as a whole to learn about the realities and hidden secrets of the contacts made with Israel by all parties. Not a single word emerged to confirm or indicate that Saudi Arabia dealt with this issue behind the scenes, under the table, or through secret meetings.

The Saudi position is crystallized in a desire for peace, for the establishment of a more serious building capable of lasting, not a building standing on weak sands of propaganda, maneuvers, and short-sighted ambitions that cannot withstand the weakest of winds in the future.

Financing of Russian Air Attacks in Yemen Denied

LD0408182094 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1735 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] Jeddah, 4 Aug (SPA)—An official source in a statement to SPA today denied a report by THE WASHINGTON POST which claims that Russian aircraft—with Saudi financing—carried out secret air raids during the Yemeni civil war.

The source added that the report, published today, and written by Rowland Evans and Robert Novak, is totally untrue and absolutely groundless.

Yemen

Salih Addresses 'Notables' on Development

JN0408201994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, met today with several notables, dignitaries, and representatives of political parties and organizations, and social figures in the Hanin region in the [word indistinct] district of Lahij Governorate. The figures and representatives extended congratulations to the brother president and the masses of our people on the victory of the forces of unity and legitimacy and the defeat of the remnants of secession and rebellion. [passage omitted]

The brother president spoke to the dignitaries. He welcomed them to Ta'izz Governorate. He said: I welcome you all and appreciate your support. He also praised the role of the people of Hanin in the people's struggle against colonialism and in the defense of the Yemeni revolution.

The brother president reviewed the stages of the crisis and the dimensions of the plot hatched by the secessionists to partition the homeland, as well as the attempts made [words indistinct] plot and deny an opportunity to those who tried to gamble with the interests of the homeland to achieve personal gains and satisfy their aggressive, malicious inclinations against the higher interests of the homeland. He noted that those people had received huge funds during the crisis and fled abroad with the money, leaving behind the simple, misled citizens to suffer the consequences of this sedition. He said: We are now doing [words indistinct] the traces of the crisis and its results. We are confident that we, along with the masses of the Yemeni people, can overcome all challenges, in the same spirit in which we overcame [words indistinct] because the leadership of the people and the homeland derives its strength from the will of the

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people and the heritage of the homeland to chart a sound vision and muster enough strength to foil all plots and intrigues and enlighten our national path toward achieving the aspirations of the people and the homeland.

The brother president noted the importance of benefiting from the general amnesty decree by those who were misled by this gang. He stressed the need to remold their awareness to bolster their loyalty to the people and not to the party and their allegiance to the homeland and not to a certain region, tribe, or clan.

He added: A new chapter has been opened, and we have to follow a new approach in our conduct and the way we address the issues of the homeland, because we now have a mission [word indistinct]. The next stage is one of progress, development, and stability. This stage requires pooling the efforts of all the sons of the homeland and all well-meaning people to work for the progress of the homeland, within the framework of the national principles we have announced, namely, adherence to a democratic approach based on political and party pluralism, respect for human rights and freedoms, and developing the experiment of local administration on the basis of local government that gives financial and administrative powers to each governorate and gives the citizens the right to elect the district officers and governors, [word indistinct] positive contribution and broad popular participation in progress and development. [passage omitted]

Salih To Decentralize Political Administration

NC0508065294 Paris AFP in English 0145 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] Sanaa, Aug 5 (AFP)—Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on Thursday [4 August] pledged to decentralize the country's political administration through the election of regional and local executive councils, the official news agency SABA reported.

Decentralization had been the key demand of the southern-based Yemen Socialist Party prior to the outbreak May 5 of a civil war with forces from north Yemen loyal to Salih.

The fighting came to an end July 7 with the defeat of the southern rebels.

Speaking in Ta'izz, south of here, Salih declared Thursday: "The state intends to establish local power structures that will form the basis of modern Yemen."

He said the proposed new system "will do away with excessive centralization and bureaucracy and should enable citizens to elect executives at the regional and local level and to hold them accountable for their actions."

No date was given for the implementation of the reforms.

North and South Yemen merged in May 1990 but their political leaders were never able to agree on the administration of the country.

YSP Statement Reaffirms Leadership Stance

MM0408111294 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Aug 94 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Statement Issued by a Socialist Party General Secretariat Official"]

[Text] An authoritative source from the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] has stated the following:

First, extensive consultations are being conducted to hold an extraordinary meeting of the party's leadership abroad, which comprises 18 Political Bureau members, 46 Central Committee members, in addition to a number of ministers, House of Representatives members, and scores of leading civilian and military cadres. These are the party's legitimate leaderships and representatives in state organs.

Second, any statements issued by individuals in Sanaa or abroad have nothing to do with the party's leadership or representatives in state organs. Nor do they express its view, after the circumstances and results of the losing war in Yemen forced it to withdraw to a number of Arab countries.

Third, no group or individual is entitled to take any crucial decisions, which can only be taken by these bodies.

Fourth, the leadership—despite the circumstances and harshness of the war—is completely united, and it is now required to contribute, with the other political forces abroad, to:

- Sorting out the conditions of the displaced persons, evacuees, POW's, and those missing; consoling the martyrs' families whose property and homes have been looted and who have lost their jobs; and alleviating their suffering, despite the ugly results imposed by the war whose results are rejected beforehand;
- Resisting military conditions, the military occupation, and all the military measures which have been used and are being used against Aden and al-Mukalla and the other areas of the south, in addition to the looting and robbery operations, rape, and appropriation of private and public property;
- Continuing to work to impose the logic of dialogue with a view to achieving a national reconciliation that recognizes every party's rights, in order to extricate Yemen from its permanent and crushing political, economic, and social crisis in accordance with Security Council Resolutions 924 and 931 and the "Pledge and Accord Document;" and establish ideal relations with neighboring states away from the current policy of enmity pursued by the military regime, which is relying on narrow regional blocs. It is an obsolete policy as a result of which Yemen has paid a heavy

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price, namely decades of loss, backwardness, and suffering.

Issued on 3 August 1994, corresponding to 26 Safar 1415 H.

Possibility of Split in Socialist Party Viewed

MM0408084494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Aug 94 pp1, 4

[Report by 'Abdallah Hammudah, Naji al-Harazi, and Hamud Munsir: "'Provisional Leadership' Statement Threatens Split in Socialist Party"]

[Excerpt] London—The statement issued by the Socialist Party's Coordination Committee in Sanaa, which calls itself the "provisional leadership," has provoked widespread reactions inside and outside Yemen. It has become a challenge threatening to split the party in the manner the northern leadership has long been aiming for. While a Political Bureau member abroad has stressed that his colleagues inside the country "have been subjected to great pressures to force them to do that," a General People's Congress [GPC] source expressed his happiness that "our brothers in the Socialist Party have begun to take a correct position."

This coincides with Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's visit to Aden. It is in response to the challenge represented in the visit to Aden by 'Abd-al-Majid al-Zindani, member of the Presidential Council and a prominent leader of the Reform Grouping. It is an indication that the conflict between the partners in victory in the Yemeni war has been moved to the southern governments.

Well-informed sources said that President Salih's visit to Aden is a message to "Reform" leaders in southern governorates, who have taken control of the senior positions of power in Lahij and Abyan Governorates and shared the main posts with the GPC in Aden on the basis of the fait accompli. It is also designed to contain the pressures al-Zindani is exerting in these governorates through his meetings with regular Army units and mujahidin battalions there with a view to mobilizing them "against the remnants of the Socialist Party," which the Reform Grouping accuses of "communism and apostasy."

Neutral sources believe that the Socialist Party "provisional leadership's" statement represents the first political victory for President Salih and is one of the fruits of his military victory. Especially as the statement "condemned the secession" on the basis that it is "an unpatriotic and unconstitutional action that violates the party's unionist orientations." It also rejected "any formula calling for the establishment of a political opposition based abroad or whose activities are financed from abroad."

Yemeni political circles stressed in statements to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that "the Socialist Party leadership's cohesion until now is the biggest difficulty facing the Yemeni leadership and is one of the main causes of the disagreement between the GPC and the Yemeni Reform Grouping over how to deal with the party." But it seems that the Socialists' delay in taking specific and declared positions gives their rivals the opportunity to seize the initiative.

'Ali Salih 'Abbad (Muqbil), member of the Socialist Party Political Bureau and the most prominent member of the provisional leadership, has said over the telephone that the provisional committee "is preparing to hold a Central Committee session in order to announce its crucial opinion vis-a-vis the future as soon as possible." He added that the agenda of this session will be as follows: resuming the activities of the party's bodies; looking into the leadership situation; endorsing the Socialist Party's future political vision; and preparing to hold the fourth general congress and taking the necessary measures for that.

A leading Socialist Party source expressed astonishment at the speed with which the statement was issued. The source said: "We had expected we would read it first and then agree to issue a similar version or a statement consistent with it."

The leading figure, who is in an Arab capital, pointed out that his colleagues inside the country have recently been subjected to great pressures, among them "the huge media escalation against the party in recent weeks and the backtracking on the promises made as regards returning the party's offices, property, and the other things which have been confiscated or looted."

But Muqbil stressed over the telephone that "we sent the draft of the statement to those outside the country. And we consider those inside the country to be the leadership." He added: "We have not been subjected to any pressures so far. However, we expect to be subjected to pressures." He said that the Coordination Committee "urged the authorities to normalize conditions in the framework of the commitments announced by them, which have not yet been fulfilled." [passage omitted]

'Armed Resistance' by Hadhramaut Tribes Reported

MM0408155094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Aug 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by 'Abdallah Hammudah and Hammud Munsir: "Demonstrations and Curfew in al-Mukalla"]

[Excerpts] London, Sanaa—Demonstrations and armed resistance actions in numerous areas in Hadhramaut Governorate, among them al-Mukalla, the governorate's capital, have cast a cloud over Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's visit to Aden at a time when Sanaa has achieved some results from the pressure exerted on Socialist Party leaders inside the country, who have issued a statement refusing that opposition be conducted from abroad. [passage omitted]

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While the Yemeni president was delivering his speech [in Aden yesterday], AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT received information about the imposition of a curfew in al-Mukalla and other areas in Hadhramaut Governorate because of the demonstrations staged there to oppose "the northern forces' occupation." This also coincided with reports of armed resistance by Hadhramaut tribes in a number of areas. They have refused to hand over the weapons in their possession in accordance with a statement issued by the Defense Ministry. South Yemen sources said that Hadhramaut tribes refused to hand over their weapons because they are demanding that they be treated like the northern tribes, which are armed to the teeth with heavy weapons. The sources added that the partners of victory from "the Mujahidin Battalions," which include the Yemeni Reform Grouping's militias and other units belonging to former South Yemen President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, have refused to hand over their weapons to the northern regular forces—which prompted southern tribes to refuse to hand over their weapons.

The Yemeni Government is earnestly working to return life to normal. Reports say that the curfew in Yemen has been abolished—which conflicts with what has been reported about conditions in al-Mukalla city. [passage omitted]

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Ramadan Meets Bulgarian National Assembly Deputy

JN0408173994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1207 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Aug (INA)—Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan has said that the sanctions, through which the United States, its allies, and vassals set out to kill the genius and faith of the Iraqis, are growing weaker by the day.

Speaking to Mr. Zakhari Zakharev [name as transliterated], a Bulgarian National Assembly deputy, in Baghdad today, Ramadan emphasized that 1994 is turning out to be different.

The nations promoting U.S. policies against Iraq, Ramadan said, have hurt their own people's economic interests and undermined their political independence.

Ramadan emphasized that Iraq which, led by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has foiled conspiracies and aggression and achieved victories, will, thanks to a consistently principled stand on freedom, sovereignty, and progress, beat the sanctions and bounce back with even greater clout.

The Bulgarian legislator commended the Iraqis' steadfastness and adherence to principle and the rejection of subservience. He emphasized that Iraq has become a role model for all principled peoples set on realizing their goals. He said the U.S. pursuit of its own interests at Iraq's expense has been exposed.

Kurds Accuse Iran in Death of Militant Leader

NC0408211994 Paris AFP in English 1956 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] Paris, Aug 4 (AFP)—A Kurdish militant leader was killed Thursday [4 August] in Baghdad by suspected Iranian killers, the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan (DPIK) said in a statement here.

DPIK leader Ghafur Hamza'i, a member of the party's central committee and its representative in Baghdad, was killed outside his home "by terrorists from the Islamic Republic of Iran," the statement charged.

The DPIK is considered the largest Kurdish movement in Iran.

Four of its leaders were shot dead in a Berlin restaurant in September 1992.

The party was founded in 1945 by Qazi Mohammed. It promotes Kurdish separatism in northern Iran and is opposed to the Tehran government.

Northwest Iran which borders northern Iraq has been the scene of violent clashes between security forces and DPKI militants and the area is riddled with Iranian army and police units.

Northern Iraq has been under Kurdish control since the area was established with backing from the US-led coalition which drove Iraqi occupying forces out of Kuwait in the January-February 1991 Gulf war.

Saddam Addresses Cabinet on Economic Theory

JN0408193794 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] His Excellency leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, has said that homegrown components are the hard core of any economic theory, even those with an international outlook. It is, therefore, incumbent upon us to interpret national and international economic phenomena from this perspective. We will go down in history as an oil producing country that depended on oil revenues worth so many billions in hard currency to finance its national development. However, history will also note that, having been subjected to an iniquitous embargo, Iraq managed to complete a large number of new projects and rebuild a 25-year-old infrastructure in the span of three years, spending tens of millions in hard currency. What are economists to make of the uniqueness of Iraq's economy and individuals in this unparalleled historical experiment?

His excellency answered this question by saying: In addition to their distinctive features of awareness, faith, the right attitude to work, and discipline, Iraqis have been driven by the sanctions to a higher and more efficient performance in reconstruction and implemening economically and socially worthwhile projects. The Iraqis have acquired culture and experience in the sphere of the international economy and trade that had not been accessible before.

Speaking to Cabinet ministers, the leader president said: It is necessary to convene symposiums at various administrative and technical levels where participants compare notes on their know-how in the areas of economy, production, and administration, since we can boast rich and original experience in these fields.

The Cabinet reviewed the investment climate and this year's current budget and the cereal production plan for the next agricultural season and made pertinent decisions.

Commodity Prices Said Climbing Again

94P50177A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 Aug 94 p 1

[Text] Amman, AL-HAYAH—Those arriving from Iraq are saying that commodity prices have climbed again after a period of stability, which followed President Saddam Husayn's dismissal of Prime Minister Ahmad Husayn al-Samarra'i and his occupation of the post himself at the beginning of June.

One of the arrivals told AL-HAYAH that the value of the Iraqi dinar [ID] had again climbed in the black market, which the Iraqi president swore to do battle against when he occupied the new post. He asserted that the rate of the Jordanian dinar [JD] is over ID1,000, while at the same

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time not only the prices of commodities offered in the Iraqi markets, but also of the services offered the citizens by the state such as water, electricity, and telephone service, have been rising.

The arrivals asserted that the IJ reached ID1,100 after being at a level of 800 when Saddam took the post of prime minister. They mentioned that the new Iraqi Government had taken a number of steps and measures aimed at conserving the foreign currency remaining in the country, among which was a decision to not allow any citizen to leave Iraq with more than 50 dollars, keeping in mind that it is necessary to pay 40,000 dinars to leave.

One of the arrivals from Iraq indicated that prices increased on a wide front. The cost of 30-egg cartons is about ID600 as opposed to ID450 when Saddam took over the prime ministry; a rooster is about ID1,000 as opposed to 700; and the price of a pair of shoes has reached ID1,500. The travelers voiced their belief that these prices will have risen upon their return to Iraq, if they return, in view of the fact that many Iraqi citizens go to Jordan on their way to other Arab states, America, and Europe. AL-HAYAH noticed a large number of Iraqis in front of the British Embassy in Amman, where they are attempting to get a travel visa to London.

An economic analyst said that the unprecedented rise in prices is leading to a change in social influences, indicating that the increase in the price of milk, for instance, led recently to a change in the customs that precede the mourning of deaths.

He explained that the great increase in the price of a kilogram of milk, to about ID7,000 dinars, in addition to the prices of foodstuffs, made Iraqis conduct their mourning without offering coffee or any meals to the mourners as had been done for hundreds of years. He mentioned that the custom had been that the family of the deceased holds mourning meetings to recite the Fatihah (opening chapter of the Koran) for three days, with the mourners sometimes having come from other cities or faraway places. He added that the bad living conditions of some citizens made some of them peruse the daily newspapers or other announcement media looking for a mourning meeting that would ensure that they would get some meals, especially if the family of the deceased was wealthy or successful.

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Peres: No 'Actual Breakthrough' With Syria

TA0408121294 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] Despite the various encouraging signs disclosed by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and U.S. President Bill Clinton, there has been no real breakthrough in the Israeli-Syrian negotiations as yet, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres reiterated during a visit to Haifa today. Our correspondent Qobi Mandel heard the foreign minister:

[Begin recording] [Mandel] Mr. Peres, with regard to the peace talks with Syria: Has there been any rapprochement, any tangible change in this area?

[Peres] There have been a few encouraging developments, and several others things remain unchanged. The encouraging developments are the fact that Syria has indicated a genuine desire to pursue the negotiations; that it voiced only subdued criticism of Jordan; and that it did not block the emerging options. None of these things have resulted in an actual breakthrough, however.

[Mandel] Sir, will Israel link the peace negotiations with Syria with the release of Ron Arad and with Syrian obligation to act on behalf of Ron Arad?

[Peres] We take every opportunity to raise the Ron Arad issue, but as you know, the Syrians deny having any information on or connection to Ron Arad. We check the matter constantly. [end recording]

'Sources' Voice Hope for Progress With Syria

TA0508060294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] On the eve of U.S. Secretary of State Christopher's arrival in the region, Israeli political sources hope for progress in the negotiations with Syria on the question of the number of stages and the duration of the withdrawal on the Golan Heights. Speaking with our political correspondent Shlomo Raz, they assessed that it will now be possible to launch detailed discussions on this issue. Secretary Christopher will visit Egypt today and Israel tomorrow.

IDF Clears Minefield for New Border Checkpoint

TA0408135094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] The minefield stretching between Jordan and Israel was blown up approximately 30 minutes ago, at the site of the new 'Arava border checkpoint. It is now possible to pave a road between the two countries.

Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that soldiers from the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] Engineering Corps spent the morning marking out the minefield and preparing it for the explosion.

When an Israeli soldier waved a red flag on one side of the border and a Jordanian soldier simultaneously waved a flag on the other side, the earth works were stopped, the signal was given, and all the mines were exploded in one huge blast.

Elyaqim Rubinstein, the head of the Israeli delegation, is currently briefing the reporters on the details of the border checkpoint's inauguration ceremony on Monday [8 August].

Further on Clearing

NC0408142594 Paris AFP in English 1308 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] Jerusalem, Aug 4 (AFP)—Israeli military bomb disposal experts on Thursday [4 August] cleared a minefield dating back more than 25 years as part of work to create a new border crossing with Jordan.

They cleared the mines to make way for a terminal and then blew them up. The field was laid a year after the 1967 Middle East war to prevent infiltrations by Palestinian guerrillas.

Bulldozers ripped a hole in the barbed wire border fence on Wednesday.

"The clearing of the sector is more than symbolic. It will allow us, as well as Jordanian officers, to cross freely and without any danger to prepare for the inauguration" on Monday of the crossing, an officer said.

Around 80 employees of the Israeli airports authority are to take charge of the terminal.

Israeli and Jordanian negotiators met Thursday near the Israeli Red Sea resort of Elat to prepare for the inauguration, expected to be attended by US Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Israel has proposed that King Husayn of Jordan join Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in attending the ceremony, according to Israeli radio.

The two leaders agreed on the new crossing, to be used at first only by foreign tourists, between Elat and the Jordanian resort of al-'Aqabah at their first public meeting in Washington on July 25.

At the meeting, they issued a declaration formally ending the state of war between their countries.

A Western diplomatic source in Amman said Rabin and the king could meet again next week in al-'Aqabah, in what would be the first official visit to Jordan by an Israeli premier.

Joint Port, Other Projects Planned With Jordan

TA0408181894 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Report by Gadi Sukenik]

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[Text] Israel and Jordan will soon discuss a plan to move the Elat and al-'Aqabah ports northward into the 'Arava and establishing a joint port city near the new port. Gadi Sukenik, is this a dream, a vision, a reality—what is happening?

This is a little grandiose, but nevertheless, something will develop and will need to be implemented in the 'Arava indeed. The plan was proposed to the Jordanians by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and it is a key component in the planning of a peace valley along the Jordanian border. According to the plan, a wide canal will be dug to convey the Red Sea water about 30 km northward, where a new, deep-water port, a joint Israeli-Jordanian one, will be built on an area of about 20,000 dunams. A joint city based on free trade will be erected near the port. The new port in the south will solve the Elat Gulf's pollution problems and will free large areas for tourism. Later, if it proves worthwhile, the sea's canal, stretching in a straight line from the Dead Sea to the new Elat-al-'Aqabah port, will be dug.

In addition to its economic value, this canal can also serve as the new border line and will thus solve all difficult territorial problems which are bound to be a stumbling block in the future peace treaty. Projects for the generation of electricity and water desalination, as well as a railway, will be established near this canal, among other things.

Incidentally, one of the minds behind the plan, years ago, was engineer Yosef Dori'el, the director general of the Israel Productivity Institute. The Israelis will try to sell this grandiose plan and others also to countries and economic companies world wide. Uri Savir, the Foreign Ministry director general, left for Europe today as part of the current preparations for the Middle East economic conference which will take place in Casablanca in about two months and which is slated to be an unprecedentedly big event. Judging by contacts currently under way, it is possible that on this coming Monday [8 August], the U.S. secretary of state will announce the intention to turn the Elat-Aqaba Gulf into a free trade zone.

Saudi Arabia Said Blocking Progress in Talks

U.S. Intervention Sought

NC0408114894 Paris AFP in English 1128 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] Jerusalem, Aug 4 (AFP)—Israel accused Saudi Arabia on Thursday [4 August] of blocking the multilateral peace talks in the Middle East and will call for the United States to intervene.

"Saudi Arabia is playing a negative role in all the working groups of the multilaterals and systematically preventing progress in setting up projects," a senior foreign ministry official, asking not to be named.

The official said reports had been submitted to Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin complaining of Saudi opposition in the multilateral track of the peace process, where decisions have to be taken unanimously.

Israel is to call upon Washington, the key sponsor of the peace process, to intervene for Riyadh to adopt a more positive stand.

As an example, the Saudi delegate at a meeting in Morocco from June 15 to 16 blocked a project on economic cooperation, according to the governor of the Bank of Israel, Ya'aqov Frenkel.

Another foreign ministry official explained the Saudi tactics as a sign of alignment with Syria, which is boycotting the multilaterals until progress has been achieved in its bilateral peace talks with Israel.

"Riyadh is also not ready to forget the pro-Iraqi stand during the Gulf War of Jordan and the Palestinians," the two parties which have made a breakthrough with the Jewish state, he said.

Apart from economic cooperation, multilateral talks also unite working groups on disarmament, water resources, refugees and the environment.

Saudis May Lift Opposition

TA0408111294 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Aug 94 p A4

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Text] "Saudi Arabia played a negative role in all the working groups in the multilateral talks and systematically prevented progress in the implementation of projects." That is the conclusion reached in a discussion summing up the latest round of multilaterals held by Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin.

The Saudi opposition created a difficult problem because all the resolutions in the multilaterals are reached by consensus.

Nevertheless, from reports reaching Jerusalem yesterday it appears that Saudi Arabia might lift its opposition to the wording of a declaration of principles in the arms control talks, and agree to renewed negotiations on the basis of a document they rejected in the latest round of talks in Qatar. The shift in the Saudi position was apparently made under U.S. pressure.

The steering committee to the multilaterals will meet in Morocco at the same time as a business conference takes place in Casablanca in late October, with the aim of resolving the problems with Saudi Arabia by then.

The discussion in Beilin's office was attended by the heads of the five working groups on environment, water, arms control, economics, and refugees, who reported on progress in the various tracks.

In the environment talks, progress was prevented because of Egypt's demand to include a discussion on nuclear waste in the agenda, which Israel opposed. Israel

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suggested that the issue be discussed in the bilateral talks, and the head of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry's Disarmament Department will visit Israel in early September to try to reach an understanding.

Egypt agreed to consider renewing the regional meetings of experts to discuss pollution of the Gulf of Elat.

Bank of Israel Governor Ya'aqov Frenkel, chairman of the Israeli delegation to the economic talks, said that in the economic working group large progress was made in submitting proposals for projects, but that the Saudi opposition prevented their implementation.

Avraham Katz-'Oz, chairman of the delegation to the water talks, said that the multilaterals served as "an incubator" for many ideas later dealt with in the trilateral talks between Israel, Jordan, and the United States.

The arms control talks were informed of a successful rescue operation by a British and an American vessel near the Italian coast, which representatives from Israel and the Arab states attended as observers.

Diplomatic Relations 'Reestablished' With Senegal

TA0408135494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] Senegal and Israel have reestablished diplomatic relations. The western African country of Senegal is one of the most important Muslim states on the continent. This was reported by our political correspondent Shlomo Raz.

Haifa University Rector Named Ambassador to Russia

TA0408122594 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Aug 94 p 2

[Report by David Makovsky]

[Text] Professor 'Aliza Shenhar, rector of Haifa University, will be Israel's next ambassador to Russia. The appointment was approved yesterday at a meeting of the Foreign Ministry senior appointments committee, headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin, a Foreign Ministry official said.

The appointment of Shenhar, an expert on Jewish folklore, gave rise to a recent controversy because she is neither a Russia expert nor a Russian speaker. Officials say Shenhar, who was the personal choice of Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, pledged to study Russian for the new assignment. Other appointments made yesterday were: Gadi Golan, director of the foreign assistance program (Mashav) as ambassador to Nigeria; Mordekhay Yedid, a diplomat dealing with international organizations, as consul-general in Sydney; Yuval Rotem, a spokesman of Beilin's office, as director of deputy director-general Eytan Bentzur's bureau. 'Oded Ben-Hur was named director of Foreign Ministry ceremonies.

Shohat: 'We Will Not Finance' Autonomy

TA0408132394 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Aug 94 p A1

[Report on interview with Finance Minister Avraham Shohat by correspondent Nehemya Stressler in Jerusalem on 3 August]

[Text] "We will not finance the autonomy. It would be absurd for us to do so. If we start to transfer funds to the autonomy, the foreign countries which promised to donate money will never do so," Finance Minister Avraham Shohat said yesterday in response to remarks by Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Palestinian Authority, that he was exasperated because Israel and other countries are not transferring promised funds and he does not have money to finance the salaries of employees and policemen.

According to the finance minister "if we give them money once, we will go on doing so for ever, while the West promised to transfer $2.5 billion in four years to the autonomy." The West has so far transferred only $30 million to the autonomy.

Shohat said it was in Israel's interest to have Gaza's economic situation improved. That is why he pressured the prime minister to permit more people to work in Israel and why he transferred 7 million shekels to the Autonomy collected from taxes, customs, and value added tax deducted from the salaries of workers from Gaza and purchases made by Palestinians in Israel and at Israeli ports. "They can start making money by marketing vegetables in Israel. Under the Paris accord, they can market eggplant, squash, and lettuce without restriction, but they do not do so for some reason," Shohat said.

The finance minister said that Israel is upholding the Paris agreement which states that it must transfer to the Autonomy taxes, customs, and social welfare deductions to the tune of some 30 million shekels by the end of the year.

The Autonomy's budget by the end of the year is $450 million, but its coffers are totally empty because there is no tax collection in Gaza and the contributions from foreign countries are not arriving because they claim there are no proper mechanisms to supervise the funds.

Ministers Sarid, Aloni Resolve Differences

TA0508050494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] Ministers Yosi Sarid and Shulamit Aloni have apparently resolved their differences and decided that, together, they would choose when to hold the Meretz primaries. Earlier this week, Sarid had said he would run in the primaries for the leadership of the party—this, two years before Aloni's term as head of Meretz is up for

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reelection. Aloni said she and Sarid decided that there was no reason at present to enter Meretz into the frenzy of competition.

All members of MAPAM [United Workers Party], CRM [Citizens Rights Movement], and Shinuy will be eligible to vote in the primaries.

Sarid Comment Viewed as Sign of Early Elections

TA0508105794 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Aug 94 p B1

[Commentary by Yo'el Marcus: "The Second Shot"]

[Text] Yosi Sarid is one of our public figures with the sharpest senses. He has always known when to quit and what; whom to join and whom to fight; when to rise against the establishment and when to join it; and when statements are just talk and when they constitute a political move. Therefore, when Sarid announces that he intends to run for the leadership of Meretz, there is more to this move than meets the eye—mainly in terms of its timing.

Sarid says that the timing is of no particular importance, but pay attention to the phrases uttered by this master copywriter: "It could take place yesterday or tomorrow, a week ago or a month from now." He said today, he said tomorrow, he said week, he said month—he did not say year. And if Sarid says that this is the place and now is the time, it means that he believes that this government will not see its full term through. Incidentally, this holds true for most Israeli Governments.

Unlike Binyamin Begin's weird television appearance—a year ago, two years ago; who can remember?—in which he announced his candidacy for Likud chairman, Yosi Sarid is preparing for the possibility that the elections will be advanced. Sarid is not only preparing for early elections but also for the struggle for the premiership in the post-Rabin era. Ramon, Baraq, Netanyahu, and Meridor—not Shulamit Aloni—are the targets he has marked. Thus, if Rabin fired the first shot of the elections in Washington, Sarid fired the second shot last week.

Now that we see the resumption of the Peres-Rabin struggle, the imminent opening of the al-'Aqabah-Elat border crossing, and the gimmick of King Husayn's plane crossing Israel's airspace escorted by Air Force jets (have we mentioned that it was exciting?)—it is hard not to notice the smell of elections in the air.

In a conversation we held, Sarid did not deny that he certainly sees the possibility of early elections. Indeed, several columnists were so highly impressed by the historic event of the signing of the Washington Declaration that they called for "elections now!" in their articles. According to Sarid, it stands to reason that the government will wait to complete the circle of arrangements with the neighboring countries by signing an agreement of principles with Syria before considering the option of disbanding the Knesset and calling early elections.

According to Sarid, one of the few people who know what is happening, such an agreement is currently cooking and may be signed before the end of this year—if not a real peace arrangement, then at least some agreement that will be seen as a breakthrough. Carrying such a handsome bag of achievements, Rabin may find it hard to resist the temptation and may ask the people for broader powers (as the first prime minister to be directly elected) and use the opportunity to expand the parliamentary basis of his government.

Rabin does not carry pleasant memories of political maneuvers. In the "brilliant maneuver" of 1977 (when the government resigned against the background of a crisis with the National Religious Party), Labor lost its hold in office for 15 years. Labor again found itself outside the cabinet for several years following the "stinking maneuver" [of 1990 in which Peres tried to win the support of Torah Observing Sephardim to break from the unity government and form a coalition with Labor]. Therefore, it is hard to foresee Rabin's lending his hand to a third maneuver for fear that the outcome might be the opposite of his original intention.

On the other hand, despite his distaste for political maneuvers, Rabin promised to seek the people's endorsement of an agreement with Syria and, in view of his slim Knesset majority, he may prefer elections over a referendum.

Waiting until November 1996 may not necessarily be a good thing, because between now and then, difficulties in implementing the agreement with the Palestinians may emerge. If elections are held as scheduled, the public's short memory could make the voters focus on economic, housing, labor, and immigrant absorption issues.

Below the surface, there are signs of a political earthquake. It is not clear what will become of the Ramon phenomenon. It is not clear just what shape the Likud will take once it overcomes its current identity crisis. It is also not clear what will become of Labor itself, as we hear reports of astounding corruption in the Histadrut Labor Federation when it was under Labor's control.

From Rabin's point of view, as seen from the outside (by Sarid, among others), he should have a vested interest in enjoying the dividends of his achievement while the Likud is suffering an identity crisis; while Ramon is preoccupied with proving his skills in the Histadrut; while the pretenders to the throne have not yet won enough support for their slogan "Old Men Go Home." Not to mention the fact that a 72-and-a-half-year-old Rabin stands better chances of winning than a 74-year-old Rabin. If elections are held as scheduled, age may be a negative factor. In brief, the possibility that Rabin will want to strike while the iron is hot is not too far-fetched.

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Follow Yosi Sarid's sense of smell. It has almost never been wrong; it has almost never misled others.

Labor Party Finances Said Suffering

TA0408162494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] Labor Party Secretary Nisim Zvili has canceled a visit to China by a delegation he was to head because of the party's financial difficulties. Zvili told our reporter that the new Histadrut treasurer, Hayim Oron, informed him yesterday that for the next four years, the Histadrut would not transfer any funds to the Labor party.

Zvili said that this announcement requires the Labor party to reevaluate its budget and make dramatic spending cuts.

Four Kakh Supporters Interrogated Over Camp

TA0408183894 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] Israel Police's National Unit for Serious Crimes Investigations detained for interrogation four Kakh supporters on suspicion that they operated the Kakh camp and trained youths and minors in the use of arms. You may now see anew the training in the camp, as disclosed in the television newsreel last week. The detainees were released on bail following their interrogation. Our correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov reports that the camp organizers are suspected of illegal weapons training and of using the outlawed names of Kakh and Kahana Hay.

IDF Polled on Settlers in Territories

TA0408123194 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Aug 94 p 2

[Report by Alon Pinkas and Herb Keinon]

[Text] Soldiers serving in the territories have only "moderate motivation" and are frustrated by insulting and humiliating treatment from settlers, according to a poll conducted by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] behavioral sciences unit, released yesterday.

The poll, which sampled some 1,000 soldiers throughout the territories, found that soldiers find it difficult to deal with settlers, who frequently intimidate and humiliate them. Soldiers say they are not adequately trained to challenge the problems they face and lack clear open-fire guidelines.

The poll concluded that one of the more prominent factors leading to low morale is the confrontations with settlers, which require soldiers to act as policemen.

OC [commanding officer] Judaea and Samaria Major General Sha'ul Mufaz convened a meeting of top commanders to study the poll and draw conclusions to improve the situation. Senior commanders said they were not surprised by the results.

"There are two factors which converge to produce this reality," said a General Staff officer in response to the poll. "There is a natural fatigue that erodes soldiers' morale and diminishes motivation, resulting from carrying out police tasks such as escorting settlers' children to drama class. Soldiers feel that this is not what they thought being a paratrooper or a tank commander is about.

"Then there is a minority of extremist settlers who regularly harass, insult, and offend soldiers. They purposely ask to be escorted to synagogue at 3 AM, or alert patrols knowing that nothing had happened. It is a minority, but all soldiers know them," said the officer.

In response, Aharon Domb, the spokesman for the Council of Jewish Communities in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, called upon the IDF to release the full findings of the survey. He said the way it was presented in the media left the false impression settlers are to blame for soldiers' low morale.

Domb said he saw the results of the survey at a recent meeting with OC Central Command Maj. Gen. Ilan Biran and Maj. Gen. Mufaz. According to Domb, only 11 percent of the 900 soldiers and officers interviewed complained about disrespectful behavior on the part of the settlers. Domb said 20 percent complained about disturbances from the settlers, while 67 percent of the respondents said the settlers obey soldiers and do not cause any problems.

In response to another question, 57 percent of the soldiers said they were treated hospitably by the settlers, Domb said.

Domb also released a letter the council sent to settlers earlier this year calling upon them not to get into confrontations with soldiers.

Chief Rabbi Seeks Law Against Grave Desecration

TA0408163294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer says he will not agree to another delay in construction at Modi'in as a result of the dispute between archaeologists and haredim—Orthodox Jews—over excavations in the area. Ben-Eli'ezer and three other cabinet ministers—Moshe Shahal, Amnon Rubinstein, and David Liba'i—toured the site this morning. [passage omitted]

Chief Sephardic Rabbi Eliyahu Baqshi-Doron today submitted in writing his request that Prime Minister Rabin order a halt to digging at nine sites in Modi'in where bones have been found. In his letter, Rabbi Baqshi-Doron says it is possible to arrive at a solution that does not involve destroying ancient burial sites because, he said, the graveyard constitutes only a small part of the area slated for construction.

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The chief rabbi also urged a change in the law that would exclude graves from the definition of antiquities. He said a grave is a holy place not to be desecrated.

REFA'EL Workers Demonstrate Against Layoffs

TA0508111194 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Aug 94 p A8

[Report by Alon Pinkas]

[Text] Some 2,000 REFA'EL [Armament Development Authority] workers yesterday protested the government's plans to lay off workers as part of its privatization scheme for the authority, saying the government has turned them into "victims of peace."

REFA'EL has in the last few years found it more difficult to compete in a saturated world arms market.

Following accumulated heavy losses, a committee was set up several years ago to explore REFA'EL's future, and concluded the authority will be compelled to sell advanced systems abroad,, a move considered by employees as compromising national security.

At yesterday's protest in the Tel Aviv Museum yard, workers committee leaders accused Defense Ministry Director-General David 'Ivri and REFA'EL Director-General Yitzhaq Gat of selling them out by agreeing to the firing of 1,000 workers without consulting with the union and depriving them of early pension compensations.

The workers said that privatization, as part of a general overhaul, will eventually result in the sale of REFA'EL, owned by the Defense Ministry in an adjunct status.

Shlomo Bock, chairman of the REFA'EL engineers section, said both the Defense Ministry and REFA'EL's management are violating a government decision to negotiate with the workers' representatives over the company's reorganization plans.

Elbit Shows Profits in Defense, Civilian Sectors

TA0408152194 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Aug 94 p C7

[Article by Yoram Gabison from the "Capital Market" column]

[Excerpt] Elbit's operative profit for the second quarter of 1994 and the first half of 1994 have grown from the same periods last year. The rise is attributed to the steep increase in the defense sector's sales and the considerable improvement in civilian business. Elbit's sales in the sphere of weapon platform upgrading rose to $143 million in the first half of 1994 from $92 million last year—a 55.4 percent rise.

Elbit's financial director, Ida Qeydar, told HA'ARETZ that the growth reflects the maturing of aircraft upgrading projects. "Our defense sector will have a nice rise in the second half of 1994, too, but not as big," she said. Qeydar added that the competition in the upgrading sphere has grown fiercer due to defense budgets cutbacks, which have brought new companies into the already overcrowded struggle over upgrading tenders. The other sector that helped Elbit overcome the slump in Elscint was the civilian activity, with the exclusion of Elscint. This sector contributed $56 million to the company's sales in the second quarter of 1994, versus $32 million in the first quarter of 1994 and $47 million in the first half of 1993. Overall, the civilian activity almost doubled in the first semester of 1994: $88 million from $47 million in the same period last year. [passage omitted]

Elscint Reports 2d Quarter Drop in Net Profits

TA0408132594 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Aug 94 p 8

[Report by Rachel Neiman and Galit Lipkis Beck]

[Excerpt] Elscint yesterday reported a 61 percent decrease in second quarter net profits to $2.72 million from $7.15m. during the same quarter last year.

Revenues fell to $54.7m. from $60m., while earnings per share declined to $0.03 from $0.09.

The company attributed the apparent decline in profitability to a one-time gain of $3.5m. in the second quarter last year, resulting from the settlement of a patent suit.

Elscint shares were down .125 to 2.375 in late trading in New York.

Elscint president Shmu'el Pereg said a slow economy had affected the nuclear medical instruments market, which has declined 25 percent since the beginning of the year. "This fact is the determining element for the fall in revenues and the poor quarterly results," he said.

He expressed hope that the introduction of the CT-Twin line of products, together with the cutbacks in expenses already in effect, would improve results for the rest of the year.

Aladdin Knowledge Systems reported a rise in second quarter net profits to $595,000 from $283,000 during the same time last year.

Revenues jumped to $1.67m. from $951,000, while earnings per share rose to $0.14 from 0.10.

The company attributed growth to an increased number of U.S. firms choosing to protect their software and Aladdin's own increased efficiency. [passage omitted]

Research, Development Grants Increase 30 Percent

TA0408114594 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Aug 94 p 8

[Report by Jose Rosenfeld]

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[Text] Research and development grant requests shot up 100 percent in July from the same period last year, Industry and Trade Ministry Chief Scientist Yehoshu'a Gleitman reported yesterday.

Since the beginning of the year, the ministry's research committee—headed by Gleitman—approved NIS [new Israeli shekels] 790 million in research and development grants, a 30 percent increase over the same period last year.

During that period, 20 percent more firms requested grants, and the total number of projects submitted rose 13 percent.

Since the beginning of the year, 534 companies have requested grants, compared with 428 last year. Firms submitted 1,086 projects, up from 964 last year.

Based on the current rate of grant requests, Gleitman expects there will be a shortfall of NIS 100m. by the end of the year. The chief scientist's budget is NIS 1b. this year.

Gleitman said he expects research and development investments to rise between 5 percent and 10 percent next year.

He added that he will survey the industry to determine if the steep jump in grant requests last month reflects an acceleration in research and development activity in the coming months.

ECI Telecom Reports Record Quarterly Profits

TA0508110894 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Aug 94 p A8

[Report by Rachel Neiman]

[Text] ECI Telecom's second quarter results have shown rises of 29 percent in net profits and 32 percent in revenues.

CEO David Rubner said the results were a record for the company.

Net profits were $18.9 million compared with $14.6m., on revenues of $93.9m. compared with $71m. for the same period last year.

Earnings per share were $0.25 as compared with $0.20 in the second quarter of 1993.

The company said that results were affected favorably by increased growth in sales.

Sales on ECI's Access Network products line rose by 141 percent and Digital Circuit Multiplication (DCME) sales were up 19 percent. Subsidiary Telematics, which provides a line of wide area networking products for voice and data communications, saw sales rise by 29 percent.

Over the past quarter ECI was awarded an $18m tender offer by the Deutsche Bundesposte and a $1.6m. first order by the Russian telecom service Rostelcom.

"This order represents the initial penetration of what promises to be a major future market for us," said Rubner.

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Envoy on Stand Regarding Ties to Jerusalem

JN0408170794 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] Jordan's permanent delegate to the Arab League Nayif al-Qadi has said he was informed by the Secretariat General of the Palestinian [as heard] to hold an emergency meeting on Jerusalem.

He told Jordan News Agency the request was discussed at a meeting of Jordanian, Egyptian, and Palestinian permanent delegates. He said he had given a detailed explanation of Jordan's ties to holy sites in Jerusalem, as well as the relationship that exists between Jordan and Palestine.

Mr. al-Qadi pointed out that the issue is far from any political or territorial concept since Jordan recognizes the Palestine Liberation Organization as the sole representative of the Palestinian people and the only party that has the right to negotiate on restoring its sovereignty of the city.

He said the explanation was met with relief by the other delegates, but added that the Palestinian side appeared to have its reasons for reiterating the demand for an emergency meeting.

The Jordanian delegate said he had hoped that the issue was debated between two sides in an earlier stage within the framework of coordination.

He said the request was left to the Arab League to deal with through its contacts, adding that Jordan would have a say in time.

Shipping Agent Denies Visiting Israeli Ports

JN0408165994 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 4 Aug 94 pp 1, 20

[Report by Hani al-Duwayk]

[Text] Amman—Tawfiq Qa'war, president of the Jordanian shipping agents association, has denied reports that representatives of some Jordanian shipping companies visited the Israeli ports to discuss the building of a container handling station in an Israeli port. He told AL-DUSTUR: Neither the association nor Qa'war Company has made such a visit.

Qa'war said the Israeli shipping companies are "harassing" the Jordanian shipping companies by sending letters and memoranda asking them to start discussion and coordination. He said most of the Jordanian companies have not responded to the Israeli letters and are waiting for a signal from the Jordanian Government.

Radio Cites U.S. House Bill Canceling Debt

JN0508062894 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] The U.S. House of Representatives yesterday approved a $13.8 billion foreign aid bill. The bill includes $3 billion in U.S. aid to Israel and $2.1 billion for Egypt. It relieves Jordan of $220 million in debts.

The bill also includes $850 million for republics in the former Soviet Union. The bill was approved by a 341 to 85 vote. It is a compromise between two bills by the House of Representatives and the Senate. The bill will be submitted to the Senate for approval.

Extradition of Defendant to U.S. Protested

JN0408192194 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 6-12 Aug 94 p 2

[Text] A number of Circassian youths have staged a sit-in at the headquarters of the Circassian Charity Association to protest the possible extradition of defendant Muhammad Abyuq to the United States. Abyuq murdered his wife in the United States.

The youths demand that Abyuq be tried in Jordan, since there is no extradition treaty between Jordan and the United States.

PRC News Agency Cited on Husayn Jerusalem Visit

JN0508091794 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 5 Aug 94 p 1

[Text] Amman—XINHUA cited informed sources in Amman yesterday as saying that preparations have begun for His Majesty King Husayn's visit to Jerusalem and that the date of the visit depends on completing these preparations. The same sources added that his majesty will perform prayers at al-Aqsa Mosque, inspect the construction work at the Dome of the Rock done at his expense, and visit the tomb of al-Sharif Husayn Bin-'Ali.

The sources said his majesty's expected visit to Jerusalem is a religious act and has no political objectives. Therefore, the sources added, his majesty is not waiting for anybody's approval. His majesty reiterated this when he said: "When I decide to go to Jerusalem I will not ask for anybody's permission, because this is my right as a Muslim, Hashemite, and Arab."

Deputies Prepare Statement Supporting King

JN0508104894 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 5 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by Mahir Abu-Tayr]

[Text] The deputies who support the peaceful settlement held a meeting at the Hall of Portraits at the Parliament building the day before yesterday to review the recent Jordanian steps vis-a-vis the peace process and the signing of the Washington Declaration between Jordan and Israel. The deputies were expected to issue a statement supporting the steps taken recently by His Majesty King Husayn in this regard. However, the deputies were

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satisfied with sending supportive cables in their individual names or in the name of their blocs. Some deputies held the view that they should issue a statement of support at this time. Other deputies, however, called for postponing the statement until they become acquainted with the details of what took place in Washington.

The deputies stressed, during the meeting, their readiness to respond to any call on the House of Representatives by his majesty the king to adopt a decision regarding the peace process.

IAF Deputies Promise To Refrain From 'Slander'

JN0408195994 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 4 Aug 94 pp 28, 24

[Text] Amman—The parliamentary group of the Islamic Action Front [IAF] has issued a statement on the summoning of several IAF deputies by some public prosecutors, saying that the deputies/preachers summoned have been working as missionaries for many years and that they have contributed to promoting the Islamic message at mosques. The statement added: The name-calling attributed to them does not correspond to the teachings of the true Islamic faith they have nurtured. For, they are advocates of unity who cherish the closure of ranks. This is because Islam is against fomenting divisiveness and prejudice, and deems them characteristics of the pre-Islamic state of ignorance. Likewise, they are preachers who seek to promote security and stability so that all individuals of our community may enjoy peace of mind.

The statement went on to say: The summoning of these preachers by public prosecutors came about at a critical phase that requires all sincere people to demonstrate wisdom, awareness, and farsightedness. This phase also requires them to extend sincere cooperation, and to engage in a constructive dialogue that promotes the higher national interest at the expense of selfish and factional interests, which can only benefit the nation's enemies.

The statement says: In the aftermath of this summoning, an IAF delegation sought a meeting with the acting prime minister, and lodged a protest with the government over this development. The delegation handed the acting prime minister a protest memorandum, demanding that the measures taken against the deputies/preachers be halted. The delegation felt that the acting prime minister demonstrated an understanding of the issue. The IAF delegation also met with the acting speaker of the House of Representatives, and informed him, along with several other deputies, of what took place. The delegation submitted to him a memorandum in this regard.

The acting speaker of the House of Representatives, along with a group of fraternal deputies, took a responsible stand toward the issue. They met with the acting prime minister for this purpose, and took part in a meeting with his royal highness the crown prince. During that meeting, they underlined the national role being played by the IAF and the Islamic movement in this homeland. They also underscored the IAF's right to voice its opposition, as guaranteed by the Constitution. They also emphasized the importance of dialogue and cooperation, especially at this critical juncture. Additionally, they stressed the need to promote the political and media discourse, as well as sermons so they may live up to the Islamic, pan-Arab, and national constants of the country.

For their part, the IAF deputies stated before his royal highness the crown prince, cabinet ministers, and deputies their right to voice their national opposition to the government's policies and stands while, at the same time, demonstrating the highest sense of responsibility so that we may safeguard our security, stability, national unity, and the dignity of our deputies. While doing so, the deputies/preachers will refrain from engaging in slander against people or agencies, repudiation, and name-calling. This is dictated by our Islamic teachings, and our keenness to promote the higher interest of our people and nation, the IAF deputies said.

Deputy Denies Charges

JN0508073994 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 6-12 Aug 94 pp 9, 37

[Text] Deputy 'Abd-al-'Aziz Jabr, one of the deputies summoned for interrogation by the public prosecutor, has denied making statements attributed to him during a sit-in at a mosque in al-Husayn camp on Monday, 25 July.

In an exclusive statement to SHIHAN, Jabr said: On 28 July, I was surprised by a telephone call from Brigadier General Hasan al-Samadi of the Amman district police. He told me I needed to call Public Prosecutor Mahmud al-'Ababinah. Despite my insistence, he would not give me any reason to do that. As soon as I hung up the phone, though, I called Mr. al-'Ababinah, who told me I should come over to his office. I tried to find out why, without any success. He just said I would know the reason when I went to his office.

Jabr added: I tried to excuse myself because the timing was not suitable. However, the public prosecutor insisted that I show up, even as late as midnight.

Jabr said: The public prosecutor called back at 1200 the same day. He stressed that I must show up and questioned my delay. I said the time was not right, and that I do not own a car to take me to him. Al-'Ababinah expressed his willingness to send a private car to get me. Again, I asked him why he wanted me to show up so quickly, while expressing my respect for the law. However, I was wondering what issue was behind this quick summoning, especially since deputies are summoned only by the speaker of the House of Representatives. Only then, it occurred to me that a serious issue was

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behind this telephone call. I know the public prosecutor does not take such rapid action unless the issue is serious. Therefore, I took a taxi and went right over to him.

Deputy Jabr went on to say: When I arrived, the Public Prosecutor called his clerk, in order to start the interrogation, for reasons I did not know. I rejected the principle of an investigation and I asked for some time to get a lawyer. At that time, the prosecutor asked the clerk to leave and said: Let us chat.

He began to ask me questions about my participation in the sit-in in front of the al-Husayni Mosque on Monday 25 July—the same day the peace agreement was signed in Washington. He also asked me if I delivered a speech during the sit-in. I said I was present at the sit-in, but that I did not speak a single word. The prosecutor was not convinced and asked again: Where did you deliver a speech on that day?

I said I delivered a speech at a mosque in al-Husayn camp, upon the request of the protesters there. The prosecutor went back and brought two charges against me. The first charge is that I compared His Majesty King Husayn to Sultan 'Abd-al-Hamid [an Ottoman sultan]. The second charge is the shedding of Jordan's blood with impunity.

I explained to him that in terms of the first issue, I spoke about the era of Sultan 'Abd-al-Hamid, his refusal to give the Jews an inch of Palestinian land, and his expulsion of the Jewish delegation at the time. I noted that the Arab world is going through a time of weakness, disarray, and inward-looking Arab states who are too weak to withstand external pressure. I did not say a single word about his majesty the king.

Regarding the second issue—the shedding of Jordan's blood with impunity—I said I never uttered these words. By way of clarifying what happened, I tell you now that the expression was said in a general context, but I remembered it after I had left the public prosecutor's office. I had noted the portion of Rabin's speech in Washington in which the Israeli prime minister said that when he returned to Jerusalem, he would pass by the armored cars burned by the "terrorists." I told the citizens: Who was it but members of our Armed Forces who destroyed those cars—our Armed Forces defending Jerusalem. How did we accept Rabin calling our soldiers terrorists?

'Abd-al-'Aziz Jabr rejected the two charges and wondered: How can we go along with the criminal Rabin's description of our martyrs? Jabr stressed his commitment to constants and said he had not crossed any so-called red lines.

Asked about the interior minister's reported possession of evidence implicating him in cases against the country's security, namely, incitement of the public to come out against the agreement, Jabr said he had nothing to hide. If the minister has something to substantiate his contentions, let him produce it. Jabr said he rejected the tactic of threats. He indicated that the charge of the crime of incitement of the public they are brandishing is unacceptable and groundless. We are a legitimate, responsible political opposition.

Deputy Jabr made it clear that mosque preachers are bound by the preaching and guidance law, which states that if a preacher makes a mistake he will be summoned by the Awqaf minister and made to sit in front of the preachers council for a debate on his speech. If it is proved that he made a mistake, this will be brought to his attention. Should he repeat the same mistake, he will be referred to the court of law by the council itself.

It seems the aim is to preempt us, and the thinly veiled message is that we must remain as docile as some others.

Jabr said parliamentary circles resent what has happened because it affects the House of Representatives and democracy in the country. He said a number of deputies, led by acting Speaker 'Abd-al-Razzaq Tubayshat, moved to put an end to these practices and met with the Acting Prime Minister Dhuqan al-Hindawi to communicate the displeasure of the House. Al-Hindawi told them matters had gotten out of hand. Thereupon, Tubayshat proposed a meeting with Crown Prince Hasan, the regent. The meeting with the regent brought together nine deputies of the Islamic Action Front, some of whom had delivered sermons in the mosques, with six other legislators representing all the parliamentary blocs.

'Abd-al-'Aziz Jabr said these tactics will not silence them. He said he favored a trial in a court of law so they have the chance to vindicate themselves before public opinion, emphasizing that there are no grounds for all this fuss.

Daily on Need for 'Constructive Opposition'

JN0508084594 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 5 Aug 94 p 1

[Editorial: "Constructive Opposition Is Necessary"]

[Text] The phenomenon of opposition and its role in expressing viewpoints have surfaced, coinciding with the recent important developments on the Jordanian-Israeli track and the accompanying general popular support.

At a fateful turning point, such as the one we are passing through, it is natural for various political, parliamentary, social, and party forces to express their views and interpretations. This expression is stipulated by the law and is in harmony with our democratic life, which is entrenched with the passage of time.

In addition to the wide and sweeping wave of support in recent weeks, opposition views and interpretations have emerged. Approximately 10 opposition or pro-opposition newspapers are issued in Jordan. This matter is not a strange phenomenon; it goes without saying that

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adopting the democratic option means accepting the "other" party's right to express its view freely and according to the law.

On various occasions and podiums, His Majesty King Husayn has emphasized the commitment to the bases and principles of Jordan's democratic policy under these circumstances. This applied to previous circumstances and will also apply to the subsequent ones. This commitment was coupled with practice. No one in this Arab edifice is harmed for his political views and interpretations.

With regard to the opposition in particular, His Highness Crown Prince Hasan frequently commended it. His highness even considered the constructive opposition as necessary, as was mentioned in AL- RA'Y two days ago. As his highness said, national dialogue can only be enriched through the constructive opposition. Under these circumstances there is nothing that can justify curbing freedom of expression. However, these sensitive and crucial circumstances require much sense of responsibility, ethics of dialogue, avoidance of lambasting others, and refraining from all that may instigate violence. Failure to do so will remove part of the opposition from its acceptable and required peaceful political framework and subject it to legal action. This will ultimately harm the national public interest, the cause of democracy, and the noble objectives to which everyone adheres.

As there is an increasing need to adhere to the democratic option in order to face future requirements and safeguard national unity as part of a responsible fraternal dialogue, there is also an increasing need for conscientious self-control and for earnest adherence to all matters that converge rather than diverge, to all that strengthens rather than weakens, and to the national constants that cannot be encroached upon, such as the Constitution, the Hashemite leadership, the [National] Charter, the [Jordanian] Arab Army, and national unity.

'Campaign' Planned Against Self-Rule Authority

JN0408175494 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 6-12 Aug 94 p 2

[Text] Press sources have told SHIHAN that the official Jordanian media will launch a press campaign against the Palestinian self-rule authority in response to the campaign launched by that authority after the signing of the Washington Declaration.

The sources said the official media will allow domestic opposition to express its views freely, lest any foreign party should exploit the opinion of the opposition.

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Al-Hirawi Favors Complete Israeli Withdrawal

NC0408184894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] On the eve of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's arrival in the region to give impetus to the peace talks, President Ilyas al-Hirawi affirmed that he clings in the negotiations to Resolution 425 and to a complete, unconditional Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. He expressed his optimism about the future. The president's remarks were cited by the Wednesday Seminar delegation that visited the president under the leadership of the seminar's Deputy Secretary General Fawzi Zaydan.

Israeli Airstrikes, Shelling Reported in South

Plane Fires at Hizballah Base

NC0408150894 Paris AFP in English 1437 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, Aug 4 (AFP)—An Israeli warplane fired two missiles at a stronghold of Iranian-backed Hizballah guerrillas in southern Lebanon on Thursday [4 August], Lebanese police said.

The attack was launched on a Hizballah base in Jabal Safi in the heights southeast of Sidon overlooking Israel's self-declared "security zone". There was no immediate word of casualties.

Hizballah Official Targetted

NC0408162894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] Following two raids by the Israeli aircraft on the town of 'Ayn Bu Siwar in Iqlim al-Tuffah, we were informed just now that the Israeli warplanes at 1830 raided Dayr al-Zahrani in al-Nabatiyah, specifically al-Ra's area. They targeted the home of a Hizballah official named 'Ali Badran. Several people were wounded and taken to hospitals. Lebanese Army personnel rushed to the scene and cordoned off the area.

Casualty Figures Given

NC0408183694 Paris AFP in English 1753 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, Aug 4 (AFP)—Israeli warplanes launched three raids on southern Lebanon on Thursday killing eight people, including three children, and wounding at least 18 others, Lebanese police and hospital officials said.

A missile fired by a warplane hit a three-storey house belonging to a villager in Dayr al-Zahrani on the road to al-Nabatiyah, 70 kilometres (43 miles) south of Beirut, Lebanese police said.

Rescue teams from al-Nabatiyah found seven dead civilians, including three children, in the rubble of the house and pulled 18 other people from the debris some of whom were seriously wounded, hospital officials said.

Several residents in neighbouring houses were also slightly hurt by flying glass when their windows were blown out by the explosion, they added.

A Hizballah guerrilla was also killed in the first of the three raids, Lebanese police said.

The attacks came ahead of a visit to the region by US Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who was due to arrive in Cairo on Saturday on another peace shuttle aimed at breaking the deadlock in talks between Israel and Syria.

Syria is the main power broker in Lebanon.

It was the first time in a year that Israeli planes had attacked Dayr al-Zahrani where there is no Hizballah base, although al-Nabatiyah is the largest Moslem Shiite town in southern Lebanon, police added.

Israeli planes also blasted two Hizballah positions the 'Ayn Bu Siwar sector of Jabal Safi in the Iqlim al-Tuffah heights southeast of Sidon overlooking Israel's self-declared "security zone."

One warplane first dive-bombed a position firing two missiles while three others gave cover, dodging anti-aircraft fire from the Lebanese army and the Hizballah using flares. A guerrilla was killed in the attack.

An hour later another warplane fired two missiles at a nearby Hizballah base without causing any casualties, Lebanese police said.

In July, Israeli warplanes launched five raids on Hizballah positions in the heights and south of al-Biqa' valley, in eastern Lebanon, without causing any casualties.

The Hizballah, financially and logistically backed by Iran and politically supported by Syria, is the main resistance group leading the fight against the Israeli army and its proxy militia, the South Lebanon Army (SLA).

Three Israeli soldiers have been killed and 17 wounded and one SLA militiaman died in 35 guerrilla attacks in July, mainly carried out by the Hizballah.

Israel had threatened to hit back at Hizballah with "painful reprisals" after guerrilla attacks in southern Lebanon on July 25 which left an Israeli soldier dead and 13 others wounded.

Israel has also blamed Tehran and Hizballah for bombings on Jewish interests in Argentina and Britain, a charge denied by both parties.

At least 95 people were killed in Buenos Aires on July 18 when a Jewish charity was bombed, and 20 people were wounded on July 26 and 27 in two car-bomb attacks on the Israeli embassy and a Jewish charity in London.

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IDF: Raid on Village 'Mistake'

TA0408191594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Excerpt] A short while ago, an IDF spokesman reported that the Israel Air Force [IAF] attack against the house in the village of Dayr al-Zahrani, near al-Nabatiyah, had been carried out by mistake. The spokesman reported that this afternoon the IAF raided terrorist targets in Jabal Safi. The house in the village of Dayr al-Zahrani was hit by mistake by a bomb that went off course. In the announcement, the IDF spokesman clarified that the IAF had no intention of harming civilians and expressed sorrow over the incident. It was reported that the mishap is being investigated. [passage omitted]

Al-Firzili on Attacks

NC0408213394 London MBC Television in Arabic 2100 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] MBC has interviewed Lebanese Chamber of Deputies Deputy Speaker Ilyas al-Firzili. He said the aim of the Israeli attacks on south Lebanon was to pressure the Lebanese Government into accepting Israeli conditions to discuss issues beyond the withdrawal question.

He affirmed that he did not sense during his meetings with U.S. State Department officials that there is conclusive evidence of Hizballah's involvement in the Buenos Aires and London explosions.

He reiterated the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies' commitment to media pluralism in Lebanon.

Hizballah: No Members Killed

NC0508060194 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0315 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] There is tension in the south following last night's Israeli raids in which seven people were killed and many wounded. In the first raid, an Israeli plane fired two missiles on 'Ayn Bu Siwar. In the second, a three-story building in Dayr al-Zahrani was wrecked. Under the rubble, rescuers found the bodies of Najah Tarabulsi, Muhammad Zawawi, Ghalib Zawawi, a child belonging to the al-Barjawi family, a child from the al-Rumani family, an unidentified man, and Samir Badran's wife.

Hospital sources said that many people were slightly hurt by fragments of glass from broken windows in surrounding buildings. This was the first raid against Dayr al-Zahrani in a year.

A Hizballah spokesman told AFP that none of the group's fighters were killed in the raid against 'Ayn Bu Siwar. The spokesman said, without elaborating: Hizballah announced the death, before the raid, of one of its members killed as he performed his religious rights.

Hizballah Claims Retaliation

NC0508054894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0420 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Excerpts] The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent has just reported that the Israeli forces shelled the eastern part of the 'Arab Salim township with 155-mm shells at 0600 today. The shelling was accompanied by extensive bursts of 12.7 mm machine-gun fire from the occupation forces' positions in al-Suwayda'.

Israeli warplanes flew intensive sorties overnight over the al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas, dropping flares. Israeli forces also shelled the outskirts of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah. [passage omitted]

The Islamic Resistance announced this morning that one of its units attacked the al-Radar position following an Israeli shelling of al-Mansurah, al-'Izziyah, al-Hinniyah, and al-Qulaylah.

[In a related report, Paris AFP in English at 0502 GMT on 5 August adds the following: "The pro-Iranian Hizballah movement early Friday said it had launched a rocket attack on an Israeli army position in southern Lebanon, hours after an Israeli air strike in the region killed eight civilians.

["Security sources in the area confirmed that five Katyusha rockets targeted an Israeli position on the western edge of Israel's "security zone" in southern Lebanon but caused no casualties.

["The sources said the attack occurred around 5.00 a.m. (0200 GMT).

["A spokesman for Islamic Resistance, Hizballah's paramilitary wing, claimed the operation, saying it had left casualties in Israeli ranks.

["Shortly after the attack, Israeli artillery units pounded nearby villages, according to Lebanese police, who made no mention of casualties.

["Israeli aircraft on Thursday night staged three raids on suspected Hizballah strongholds in southern Lebanon, one of which destroyed a three-storey building killing eight civilians and injuring 18, according to the latest toll."]

Al-Hariri Reacts

NC0508054094 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has stated: If Israel's objective in its attacks is to pressure us to make concessions, then we affirm that we will not relinquish our right to our territory and water and that we are committed to the principles on the basis of which we joined the peace talks to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

AL-NAHAR cited al-Hariri as saying after yesterday's Israeli aggression: Israel is daily committing aggression against our villages and towns in the south, killing innocent victims, and causing heavy damage to property. Israel is continuing to attack us in an attempt to avoid the prerequisites of peace, which require it to withdraw

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from our territory. We have said and we reiterate that the ball is still in Israel's court and it need only implement UN Resolution 425 and withdraw unconditionally from our occupied territory.

Prosecutor Asks Germany for Details on Extradition

NC0408115494 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] Chief Public Prosecutor Munif 'Uwaydat has stated that defendant Yasir al-Shuraydi is still under arrest pending the completion of procedures for his extradition to Germany for his suspected involvement in the 1986 bombing of a Berlin nightclub. In a statement to REUTER today, 'Uwyadat said he has asked German judicial authorities to provide him with details related to the extradition file Germany sent him earlier.

Buwayz on Town Siege, Extradition Requests

NC0408203594 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] The Israeli siege of the town of Yuḥmur has entered its 10th day as its residents who are outside the town continue their efforts to lift the siege. They staged a sit-in outside the government office in al-Nabatiyah this morning in which al-Nabatiyah Governor Ghazi Zu'aytir and key figures and representatives of various parties and forces took part. They appealed to the international community, the United Nations, and the Arab League to intervene quickly to lift the siege of the town whose residents are not allowed to bring in any water or food.

Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said Yuhmur's isolation is an attempt to annex it to the occupied border strip. He disclosed that there is continuing contact with the U.S. ambassador and ambassadors of other major powers in an effort to lift the siege. He denied that Lebanon today submitted a complaint to the Security Council to lift the siege. Buwayz' remarks were cited by Editor Doyen Milhim Karam.

Karam also cited Buwayz as saying that Lebanon has no problem with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's not visiting Beirut as long as the U.S. commitment to a just and comprehensive peace still stands.

The foreign minister affirmed that Lebanon has not received any extradition request in the true sense of the word from the German Government regarding 'Abdallah al-Shuraydi and that not all discussions were based on a sound legal formula. He noted that al-Shuraydi is still under arrest and in the custody of the Lebanese authorities.

Concerning the Argentine request, Buwayz said it was vague and must be based on legal and judicial premises, and that Argentina is acting on Israeli information.

Russia's Yeltsin, Kozyrev Note Support

NC0408193494 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] The president has received a cable from Russian President Boris Yeltsin on the 50th anniversary of establishing bilateral ties. In his cable, the Russian president affirmed that Russia is committed to its policy of supporting Lebanon's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity and to developing extensive and fruitful cooperation with Lebanon.

Meanwhile, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev emphasized that an active Russian-Lebanese cooperation in the Middle East peace process is an important element in the progress toward a comprehensive, just, and viable settlement in the region. He said the ties of friendship and cooperation between Lebanon and Russia will continue to develop successfully in both nations' interest. He sent a cable to Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz on the 50th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations between Lebanon and Russian Federation on 5 August.

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Press Views Christopher's Forthcoming Tour

JN0508095894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Press review]

[Text] In its editorial today, AL-BA'TH discusses U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's forthcoming tour in the region, which aims at continuing efforts to push forward the peace process.

The paper notes what U.S. President Bill Clinton has said to the effect that President Hafiz al-Asad sincerely seeks to establish just and comprehensive peace in the region. AL-BA'TH says: This is not the first time such statements have been made by the U.S. Administration. However, this recognition at this time in particular refutes Israeli claims and confirms Syria is serious about its work to establish genuine peace in the region.

The paper stresses that Syria, which went to the Madrid Conference on very clear principles, represented in implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace formula, is still dealing, and will continue to deal, with the peace process on the basis of these specific principles.

AL-BA'TH stresses that it is about time for everyone dealing with the peace process to realize it is absolutely impossible to push Syria into accepting what it does not want. Syria wants a genuine peace, based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace formula. Syria, as acknowledged by the U.S. Administration itself, is serious about its work to achieve just and comprehensive peace. It has not, and will not, spare any effort to reach that goal. But, it will continue to reject an incomplete peace that does not restore rights; the kind of peace Israel is trying to promote .

AL-BA'TH concludes its editorial by saying: Those wishing to see our region enjoy security, peace, and stability must address the Israeli leaders who still reject all the conditions and requirements for establishing just and comprehensive peace in the region. To demonstrate that, it is sufficient to note what Israel is doing against Lebanon, particularly against southern Lebanon, where savage crimes against its defenseless civilians are continuing.

On the same subject, AL-THAWRAH says: As U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher prepares for a new tour in the region, one wonders how long the region will continue to wait for the achievement of peace, especially since the experience of the past three years after the political process started has not produced any sign or yielded any result that can help achieve that goal and put the region on the road toward stability.

The paper notes that the international efforts and the U.S. quest, both the old and the new, have not yet managed—despite their material, political, and military influence—to move beyond square one and translate into action the commitments and pledges to achieve just and comprehensive peace that is based on the full implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy.

AL-THAWRAH says the entire world and the United States, which launched the peace process initiative, recognize it was Syria that opened the door to that initiative. Both Syria and Lebanon have the right to ask the world community and its organizations and the U.S. sponsor and broker to dot the i's and determine Israeli responsibility for squandering peace opportunities, one after the other.

Concluding its editorial, the paper stresses that the U.S. Administration must fulfill its commitments and obligations and implement the UN resolutions, and not reward the aggressor, turn a blind eye to its practices, and help maintain its occupation of Arab territories.

In another commentary, AL-THAWRAH notes that Syria, which has dealt positively with the peace process, presented a paper of principles at the third round of Washington talks, which everyone, including the United States, said was historic in view of its principles opening the road toward peace. Syria then followed by presenting the formula of complete withdrawal for comprehensive peace in order to expedite the peace process at a time when Israel took a negative position and had failed to offer anything to benefit peace.

The paper explains that peace has certain requirements which must be met in order to achieve it. These requirements were stipulated by the Madrid meetings and underlined by the Geneva summit between Presidents al-Asad and Clinton during which the United States pledged to achieve peace on the basis of these requirements.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that three years after the start of the peace process, it is now time for the United States to fulfill its pledges, especially since Israel is still practicing its obstructive role without paying any attention to its defiance of international will and the U.S. Administration.

Concluding its commentary, the paper says: For its part, Syria has confirmed its positive cooperation with the U.S. efforts and its commitment to its firm, principled position on peace, which must be just and comprehensive and based on the Madrid Conference and the U.S. initiative. Syria is, therefore, always prepared to discuss what may help make progress to achieve the objectives of the peace process without compromising the constants of the Syrian position.

Pelletreau Cited on 'Good Chances' for Progress

JN0508080094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] Washington—Robert Pelletreau, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern Affairs, has said he

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believes there are good chances to achieve progress in the peace talks on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. He stressed his country is determined to make progress before the end of this year.

In statements to Radio Orient aired yesterday, Pelletreau said the U.S. Administration sensed the serious Syrian position during Secretary of State Warren Christopher's recent visit to Syria. He said he hopes the circumstances in the region will be appropriate for making progress on the Syrian-Israeli track. The U.S. official said there are still major differences between the two sides which require serious work to resolve them.

Pelletreau reaffirmed that Secretary of State Christopher is determined to do all he can to achieve progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

Asked about the possibility of Christopher visiting Lebanon during his forthcoming tour in the region, Pelletreau said the program for the forthcoming tour has not been fully decided. He noted that the U.S. officials are still holding contacts with the concerned governments about this tour. Pelletreau stressed that his country is very keen on making progress on the Lebanese track and on helping the Lebanese Government and people regain their national sovereignty in full and to preserve Lebanon's territorial integrity.

Calls For 'Flexibility' on Peace Talks Criticized

JN0508102094 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 5 Aug 94

[From the "Today's Press" segment of the "Morning Newspaper" program]

[Text] AL-BA'TH says what U.S. President Bill Clinton has said to the effect that President Hafiz al-Asad sincerely seeks to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region refutes Israeli claims and confirms that Syria is serious about its desire to work for a genuine peace in the region.

In its editorial, the paper criticizes those who talk about flexibility in Syria's position. The paper says the flexibility they are talking about is, from Syria's viewpoint, tantamount to a relinquishment of its positions, which is considered taboo. The paper warns that Syria will not accept that or relinquish inalienable legitimate rights or recognize occupation. The paper says: Anyone who thinks Syria may do what the others have done is making a fatal mistake.

The paper says it is absolutely impossible to push Syria into accepting what it does not want.

The paper says those wishing to see our region enjoying security and peace must address the Israeli leaders, who say that the principles of the Madrid process are no longer valid, and who, consequently, reject the requirements for establishling the just and comprehensive peace.

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Afghanistan

Kabul Hit by Rockets, Shells; Three Killed

LD0408173694 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] During last night and today the Karmal-Golboddin-Dostum militias fired 15 rockets and mortar shells on Kabul city's residential areas. As a result of this savage attacks three Kabul citizens were martyred while some citizens suffered material losses.

Opposition Militia Positions Said Seized

LD0408174394 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] A counterattack by the mojahedin and forces of the Islamic army to the east of Kabul resulted in six military posts of the Karmal-Golboddin-Dostam side's being seized.

A BIA military correspondent reports that the Karmal-Golboddin-Dostam militias today launched an unsuccessful attack on the mojahedin's positions from the direction of [word indistinct] Bagrami. The attack was repulsed.

In the course of a counterattack the forces of the Islamic army killed 12 militiamen and (?captured) dozens more. The mojahedin also captured a quantity of heavy and light weapons.

Bangladesh

Pakistani Army Chief Meets Biswas, Zia

BK0408133294 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1230 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] A four-member delegation led by Pakistani Army Chief General Abdul Waheed called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at the President House today. Talking to members of the delegation, President Biswas termed Bangladesh's relations with Pakistan as good. He stressed the need for cooperation between the armed forces of the two brotherly countries for their mutual benefit. The president said that cooperation in technical and training spheres should be strengthened.

Gen. Waheed assured the president that friendly cooperation between two countries will be further strengthened. He lauded the progress made by Bangladesh in various socioeconomic spheres. He also conveyed the good wishes of the Pakistani president to President Biswas.

Earlier, in the morning, Gen. Waheed paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. During the meeting, the Pakistani Army chief lauded the economic success and development in various sectors under the leadership of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. He also referred to the reputation achieved by the armed forces of Bangladesh and Pakistan in various UN peacekeeping missions. Conveying her good wishes to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan, Begum Zia said that she is awaiting a meeting with her Pakistani counterpart at the UN population and development conference in Cairo early September. The prime minister said that she will visit Pakistan in November. Lieutenant General Muhammad Nooruddin Khan, Bangladesh's Army Chief, and Anwar Kemal, Pakistan's high commissioner to Bangladesh, were present during the meeting.

India

Rights Commission To Have Investigating Agency

BK0408122294 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] The National Human Rights Commission will soon have its own independent investigating agency. This was stated by an official spokesman in New Delhi yesterday. Briefing newsmen, he said a director general of the commission has already joined to become part of such an agency.

Meanwhile, the commission, which has submitted reports on its visits to Assam, Meghalaya, and Punjab to the Home Ministry, is looking to the operation of TADA [Terrorism and Disruptive Activities Prevention Act] and has sought information from various state governments on detentions made under the act. The report on Punjab said that the state government has formed a core group on the suggestion to interact with the commission for disposing of complaints on human rights. In its report on Assam, the commission observed that a link between drugs and terrorism and rising ethnic aspirations in the state have made handling of allegations of human rights violations a delicate and difficult task. The commission has asked the Assam government to work out an attractive rehabilitation program for the militants with a view to solving the problem. In Meghalaya, the Commission intervened to solve the complaint of human rights violation leading to the suspension of a police officer and starting of criminal proceedings against him. The state government has awarded compensation of 50,000 rupees to the family of the victim and gave a government job to one of the family members. The commission also took note of the need to ensure speedy trial of cases to reduce over crowding in the jails.

Iran

Velayati, Bosnia's Silajdzic Hold Geneva Meeting

LD0408214894 Tehran IRNA in English 2019 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 4, IRNA—The Prime Minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina Haris Silajdzic in his meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in Geneva today called for more activity of Islamic nations in connection with efforts to solve the crisis in the Balkans.

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In the meeting held on the sidelines of the assembly of foreign ministers of the contact group of the Organization of the Islamic Countries (OIC) [Islamic Conference Organization, ICO], Siladjic once again appreciated the aid and support of the Islamic Republic to the people of Bosnia.

The OIC contact group which includes, Iran, Pakistan, Turkey, Malaysia, Senegal, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and Egypt, is holding a session on the situation of the Muslim people of war-stricken Bosnia and the rejection of the international peace plan by the Serbs.

In their meeting Velayati and Silajdzic exchanged views on the latest events in Bosnia and discussed coordinating of efforts at the session of the contact group of OIC foreign ministers

The meeting was also attended by Bosnian Foreign Minister Irfan Ljubljankic and Iranian Ambassador Taherian.

Security Official: 'Zionists,' U.S. Support MKO

NC0508062494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] The secretary of the Supreme Council for National Security has said that the presence of the Monafeqin [hypocrites—refers to Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] and of counterrevolutionary groups in Europe has become possible with the financial assistance of the Zionists. Ruhani, who was speaking last night to a gathering of mourners at the Sarallah mosque of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, stated: The Monafeqin, who once pretended not to want to cooperate with America, are now overtly cooperating with the enemies of Islam, especially with the Zionists.

The deputy speaker added: Today the Zionists explicitly and clearly consider Islamic Iran to be their most powerful enemy. American officials have also focused their propaganda attacks on the Islamic Republic of Iran in their speeches and comments. Ruhani stressed: But like before the Iranian nation will continue to emulate Prophet Muhammad and his scion and will resist all the enemies of Islam.

U.S., Israel Said Willing To 'Go to Any Length'

NC0508094194 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 31 Jul 94 p 2

[Editorial: "U.S.-Israel Campaign To Discredit the Islamic Republic of Iran: How Far Will They Go?"]

[Text] In recent days, while Jordan was preparing a peace with the Zionists, three buildings belonging to or affiliated with the Zionist regime, were bombed in Buenos Aires and London. As usual, the United States and Israel accused Islamic groups and the Islamic Republic of Iran of complicity in those terrorist acts. Neither the Argentines nor the British have provided any proof of Islamic groups', or of Iran's, involvement in the bombing attacks. The UN Security Council issued a statement deploring terrorism. However, Israel immediately objected to the statement on the grounds that it did not include a reference to the fact that the victims were Jewish, and without producing any evidence, Israel accused Iran of responsibility for the bombings.

The Zionist regime and the United States have been actively pursuing a policy of discrediting the Islamic Republic through negative campaigns and by pressuring other countries to issue anti-Iranian statements. Several points need to be examined in this respect:

1) Following the Husayn-Rabin meeting in Washington, which was not a significant event since the two sides had numerous secret meetings throughout the last 18 years, the Zionist regime and the U.S. Government are trying to increase the pressure on other Muslim countries, particularly Syria and Lebanon, to quickly make peace with the Zionist state. After the Buenos Aires bombing, the Zionist Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin accused Syrian-supported and other Lebanese groups of participating in the bomb attack and threatened Lebanon with yet another Israeli military invasion. Both Israel and the U.S. plan to weaken the international standing of Syria and Lebanon and force them to relinquish their national and religious interests and sign the U.S.-Israeli-dictated peace treaty.

2) Tel Aviv and Washington have reached the conclusion that only the Islamic Republic and the region's Islamic movements are capable of disrupting and ultimately destroying the so-called peace process since they have never recognized the illegal regime of the occupiers of al-Quds [Jerusalem]. In order to discredit their unwavering opponents, Israel and the U.S. have embarked on a propaganda campaign aimed at portraying them as terrorists who are bent on destroying regional peace.

3) British security officials have stated that for the last five years Israeli personnel were in charge of providing security for their London Embassy and other Zionist organizations in Britain. The same officials added that Israeli security personnel have been using state of the art technology and products to ensure the safety of Zionists in England. It is hard to understand how a car laden with explosives could be parked in front of the Zionist Embassy without raising the suspicion of the Israeli security personnel.

4) On Thursday, Lebanese officials revealed that, contrary to Israeli claims, there is no group called "Ansarallah." They further added that those who issued a declaration under the name of "Ansarallah" claiming responsibility for the Buenos Aires bombing were members of the PLO who are working closely with Israel's Mosad. Lebanese officials have arrested the PLO members responsible for the "Ansarallah" communique.

In order to achieve their goal of legitimizing the existence of the regime of the usurpers of al-Quds by forcing

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the Muslim states to officially recognize Israel, and to discredit those opposed to this disgraceful act of arrogant coercion, the U.S. and the Zionist entity will apparently go to any length and will commit any heinous crime, including murdering their own citizens.

Concern Noted Over Attacks on Pakistani Shiites

NC0508092294 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL (Weekly Edition) in English 28 Jul 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Pakistan's Plight"]

[Text] Post-Ziaul Haq Pakistan has made a serious effort to portray itself as a respectable member of the international community. The Muslim nation of 120 million people know better than others what is expected of them—among other things a model of what a modern Islamic state should be. For more than a decade Pakistan suffered due to the abuse of power by General Mohammad Ziaul Haq. The autocratic ruler came to power in a military coup in July 1977 and ruled till his death in a mysterious air crash in August 1988.

Now it seems that some anti-social and crude elements who cannot see beyond the tip of their nose are out to severely dent the image of this strategic country. In less than a week criminal attacks against Shiite Muslim worshippers have claimed more than 10 lives and wounded several others including small children reciting the Holy Koran in a mosque. The assailants everytime managed to flee.

In the past few months similar ugly incidents have been reported in Pakistani cities. Outlaws in Karachi have literally made a mockery of law and order. As this dangerous trend continues, respected and law-abiding citizens are bound to seriously revise their thinking about the mandate of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. One thing is clear: the Bhutto administration lacks courage and the political will to get the record straight in security matters like getting rid of corrupt officials and restoring calm in cities where people feel insecure.

Islamabad's senior envoy in Tehran, who also is a fervent supporter of democracy in his country, believes that religious extremists who were clearly ignored by the Pakistani electorate in recent elections are responsible for the violence. Iqbal Ahmad Khan, a seasoned diplomat up-to-date on world affairs, rejects the idea that his government is not doing enough to punish the fanatics.

Mr. Khan rightly believes that for almost 30 years after its birth in 1947, Pakistan did not encounter major sectarian or ethnic problems. "Ours is a pluralistic society and we are determined to bring the full force of law to bear on radical groups" who failed at the ballot box and are now desperate and confused, says Pakistan's deputy head of mission.

"We certainly hate such incidents and strongly condemn them," says Khan of the recent violence. "Our people have been provoked by the extremists quite unreasonably and unnecessarily."

In no uncertain terms should be Benazir administration realize that the death of innocent Shiites in the streets of Pakistan can have a disastrous effect on its relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Our people and government very much value their fraternal ties with this neighboring country. At the highest levels of our society and leadership there is a commitment to work with Pakistan in all areas and in the interest of both nations. But this vision, trust and understanding could be harmed if the leadership in Islamabad delays the full implementation of justice for all its citizens.

Given the thickness of relations between the two neighbors, it is very natural that the people of Iran will also protest the repeated violence against Shiites in Pakistan. There should be no place for crooks and mercenaries in noble and civilized communities. In one incident on Saturday masked killers strafed a bus with automatic gunfire and then tossed a grenade at the panicky passengers. The bus was carrying Shiite Muslim worshipers. Six died and more than 25 were injured. Why should anybody shoot at unarmed civilians who may not even have the slightest idea about power, politics or extremism under the cover of religion?

Religious extremism is not exactly the best visiting card for a country that has come away from other types of authoritarianism. Given the circumstances of its birth and its present political-economic situation the Islamic Republic of Pakistan can ill-afford to have killers on its streets. The man in charge of Pakistan's Tehran mission made it known that Ms. Bhutto's agenda is topped by "rule of law," and that "law and order will take its course." It remains to be seen how and when democratic Pakistan with an elected government in power will set clear rules dealing with crime and punishment. Its political leaders obviously owe this to their Muslim masses.

Szimkus Reportedly Admits to Spying, Propaganda

LD0408140294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Helmut Szimkus, declaring that he has spied for America and Iraq, has revealed further details on his intelligence relations with Iraqi and American officials from 1980 to 1988 in an interview with a German-based daily, FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE.

After his release, following a five-year jail term on the charge of espionage in Iran, he had said that he was not a spy. But apparently, after some time, as found expedient by U.S. officials, he revealed more details of his espionage operations so as to have a suitable subject for its anti-Iranian propaganda in the future. [as heard]

According to informed observers, it is an old method used by intelligence and spying elements that by offering a little information, they try to have access to greater information. In the midst, the spokesman of the German

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chancellor Wednesday announced that Szimkus constantly denied any spying activities and the German Government took action for his release on humanitarian grounds.

Of course, use of the term humanitarian grounds is quite evident to those who are familiar with the propaganda policies of the West, as the term is mostly used for covering up apparently logical justifications [as heard]

Despite this, one should not ignore the point that this same Szimkus, immediately upon his release from jail and return to his country, in the course of his news conferences tried in a demagogic manner to deny his espionage operations and to embark on a motivated propaganda campaign against Iran by saying that torture is exercised in its jails. In this regard, he prepared a premeditated scenario with the help of the Western media and propagated it.

Now there is posed this question by all those individuals who have either heard about comments of Mr. Szimkus or read them in the press: How can contentions made by others be believed, and is the statement of someone who himself confesses to spying under the cover of humanitarian grounds acceptable?

In fact, the mission of Mr. Szimkus, who had at one stage spied for America and Iraq, has in the new stage turned into propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran so that he may in the future be assigned with another mission in a new form.

Comments of Mr. Szimkus in his interview with the daily FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE reveal only a small part of the motivated propaganda launched by the Western media against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Even though this interview has been released to exploit the situation for propaganda purposes, at least it conveys the point of which individuals are liars and demagogues.

Larijani Rejects Accusations of 'Terrorism'

LD0408213394 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1615 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Interview with Mohammad Javad Larijani, Majles deputy and member of the parliamentary commission on foreign affairs, by unidentified correspondent in the studio; date not given—from the "Political Roundtable" program; recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Correspondent] Concerning Islamism and accusations of terrorism by Islamists, what is the motivation behind these accusations? Does Islamism need to resort to terrorist methods or not?

[Larijani] Well, naturally, anyone who has knowledge of the principles of Islamic thought knows that Islam is the religion of peace. [passage omitted]

The West is increasing its level of violence in order to confine the Islamic movement. This violence is not Islam's violence. Violence does not belong to the movement of Islamic revival, which they call fundamentalism. This violence is the work of Westerners. This is a very important issue in the political strategy of the Islamic world.

[Correspondent] Recently there were explosions in Buenos Aires and London. The Western media published a lot of work on the subject. We saw that the Western media acted in a coordinated fashion with the Monafeqin [hypocrites—reference to Mojahedin-e Kalkh Organization; MKO] with regard to the explosion incident at the Imam Reza shrine in Mashhad. You have referred to that issue to a certain extent, but speaking generally and more clearly, how and within what framework can one justify the matter?

[Larijani] The explosion in Buenos Aires greatly clarified the scandalous nature of both the Western media system and the Western politicians. I believe that the media made the politicians lose face. That is because when the explosion occurred, within something like less than half an hour, the Zionist government, and many other governments, announced that Iran was involved, or the Lebanese had a hand in it. There is no one who would accept that the connections with an explosion—which was of a large scale—could be discovered within half an hour. In other words, if instead of using CIA and Mosad agents, genie agents were used, it would have been unlikely to find the connections within half an hour. Well, naturally that was a propaganda assault. They coordinated that assault with some everyday Joe, who, say, has been seeking asylum in Venezuela. He has claimed to be a veteran diplomat. After a while it became clear that he was just an ordinary individual. Well, all that demonstrated that the issue was not all to do with who was responsible for the explosion. They saw an opportunity was at hand to attack the reputation of the Islamic Republic. They thought that we would shake in our boots over it. We have seen many such propaganda waves against ourselves. But there must be many questions raised by the people of the world. What kind of intelligence system is that? Is it an intelligence system or, in reality, a system of publicizing a lack of information? That is one of the important issues that we are faced with.

The issue of discrimination in international values...[pauses] Of course, we have never believed in a fair international value system. After the second world war this international system was set up to apportion the war booty. And today, after the so-called Cold War, for the purpose of consolidating the seniority of some in the world it is being utilized. [sentence as heard] That is why if America seeks to attack Haiti, the UN Security Council must give its authorization; if France wishes to have a military expedition in Rwanda, the Security Council must give its authorization; if the Russians wish to intervene in Abkhazia, it must give its authorization. That is, the United Nations has become a scribe for issuing authorizations for the powerful in the world.

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Essentially, at no time has the United Nations been so discredited. If you wish to know the extent of its credibility, look at Bosnia-Herzegovina, where there is a genuine issue at stake: Defense of humanity; prevention of aggression; and slaughter of human beings. We see that it is chaotic there. I even have a sneaking suspicion in my mind that possibly the United Nations has always facilitated [tamhid kardeh] the destruction of Muslims and the nucleus of Islamic gathering in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The explosion in the immaculate Imam Reza shrine was a human catastrophe; not a mere explosion. It was an explosion in a sacred place. And that sanctity is accepted by all UN members. That is, at the United Nations its members accepted that the religious sanctities of other states must be respected. For us, just as the church, the synagogue, and the Buddhist temple is internationally honored, so our mosques, especially the immaculate Imam Reza shrine, must be considered to be among the most sacred centers. [passage omitted] All the world must be sensitive to this issue of the violation of the shrine. All the world must show a response. But we noticed the opposite, and that in itself shows how dishonored the system has become. The international system that advocates the so-called global government, and putting the world in order is in the most scandalous and incompetent state.

[Correspondent] You referred to Western support for the Monafeqin. What is the reason?

[Larijani] The cause lies in enmity with Islam, enmity with an independent Iran, and enmity with the Islamic movement. Of course, Western support for Monafeqin is not a constant. They do it to various degrees and according to their interests. Western countries, that is the seven industrial countries, issued a joint statement recently, and in one of its articles they called on the countries of the world not to give any support to organs of terror. It is no longer possible to accept them allowing terrorist organizations—who are responsible for the deaths of innocent people in Iran and other places—to have offices, the possibility of propaganda, the mobilization of personnel, and finance, and even military preparation in their countries. No rational person would accept that the Iranian Government and system would be damaged with such provocations. Such acts only damage human dignity. Our nation understands its systems and its people. Our people's support for the system will not be damaged by such acts. I believe Western countries, through their statement, have made a commitment, but their actions does not match the commitment. It must be understood throughout the world that support for terrorism is fundamentally based on some other basic issues; the designs they have for the Islamic world and the world that wants to be liberated.

[Correspondent] As you mentioned, and according to substantiated documents, the Monafeqin were responsible for the recent events including the tragedy in the holy shrine. Is it not time for international organizations, if they are honest, to respond accordingly?

[Larijani] I think the country's diplomatic establishment should have a serious debate with any country supporting terrorist organizations that conduct acts of terrorism against us. Their action is in contradiction to our official stand and international custom. I think the international community would finally come to the conclusion that sovereignty of governments must be respected. There is no ground for imposing values. On the contrary, we must facilitate reasonable trade and reasonable interaction between cultures. A culture that has several satellites or a great broadcasting ability should not try to impose its views on the world. [passage omitted] You cannot change cultures by force. There are several strong cultures in the world, including Islam, which will determine the grounds for international movement in the future. [passage omitted]

Kurdish Leader's Death Tied to Friction With MKO

LD0508080794 Tehran IRNA in English 2203 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] Sanandaj (Kordestan Prov.), Aug. 4, IRNA—According to a report from Baghdad here today Ghafur Hamza'i, a member of the outlawed Kordestan Democratic Party [KDP], was killed by unidentified gunmen. Details are yet to emerge and no group has so far claimed responsibility for the killing.

Of late, Iranian anti-revolutionary outfits have been involved in a fierce struggle. A propaganda war was raging between the outlawed Democratic Party and the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO). It is interesting to note that the MKO terrorist grouplet has kept its silence and not yet shown any response to the news of Hamza'i's murder.

Further Reportage on Disturbances in Qazvin

Clandestine Radio on Unrest

NC0408193194 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 1700 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] The heroic uprising of the disgusted people of Qazvin on Thursday [4 August] continues with ensuing demonstrations and clashes. AFP reported more clashes in Qazvin today. The National Resistance Council Secretariat announced in a statement that the Khomeyni regime had dispatched its interior minister to that city to suppress the people of Qazvin and has put the 16th armored division on alert. [words indistinct] had to retreat before the people of Qazvin and in a deceitful maneuver announced that Qazvin has been separated from the Zanjan Province and will be merged with Tehran Province.

In its fear at the proliferation of the rightful protests of the people, the Khomeyni regime refrained from disseminating the report on the great uprising of the people of Qazvin on its radio and television.

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The heroic uprising of the people of Qazvin has been widely reflected on the international level. The Qazvin Friday imam, the criminal deputy of Khamene'i in Qazvin pleaded with the frustrated people of Qazvin and [passage indistinct].

The noble uprising of the people of Qazvin—who have reached the end of their endurance—against the clerical Khomeyni regime which began yesterday morning continued on Thursday morning with demonstrations and sporadic clashes. During the intense clashes between the people who have risen up and the repressive forces of the Iranian regime, [words indistinct]. According to reports received, the atmosphere continues to be tense and sounds of shooting can be heard from various parts of the city. The regime's repressive forces opened fire on the people in Vali-ye 'Asr area in the center of the city of Qazvin.

REUTER reports that the residents of Qazvin clashed with the law enforcement forces on the second day of the uprising, that is, on Thursday. A correspondent reported to REUTER on the telephone that [words indistinct] clashes have taken place between the people and the law enforcement forces.

AFP reported that sporadic shooting was heard in the early afternoon on Thursday and some groups of demonstrators took to the streets. According to this news agency, shops and bazaars remain closed in Qazvin.

The National Resistance Council of Iran's secretariat in Paris issued a statement regarding the great demonstrations by the heroic Qazvin residents and reported the visit by the regime's interior minister to that city to crush the people and the full alert of the 16th armored division in Qazvin. The statement says that the Qazvin people's uprising which started yesterday at 1400 in protest of the government's highhanded policies and the serious economic conditions continued until Thursday morning. [words indistinct] Over 2000 riot police were deployed and [words indistinct] as martial law has been imposed.

Baghdad radio citing news agencies stated that sounds of shooting are being heard in Qazvin and the police have been unsuccessful in gaining control over the city. Baghdad radio added that the Iranian regime's police are attempting to prevent the demonstrations from spreading and have blocked the Qazvin highway. [passage indistinct]

The regime's news agency has, however, admitted to a protest action by the people of Qazvin but has sought to project it as minor and has claimed that the [words indistinct]. The regime is seeking to downplay the dimensions of these massive demonstrations—which have exposed the instability and illegitimacy of the regime—to cover up the matter.

Support for Khamene'i Reported

LD0408224594 Tehran IRNA in English 2202 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] Qazvin, Aug. 4, IRNA—A large group of Muslim people of Qazvin today assembled at the An-Nabi Mosque and called for more attention of responsible people to their demand to the effect of changing Qazvin into a province.

The people said that they would pursue their demands through legal channels.

At the gathering the people of Qazvin also voiced support for the leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the Majles and the administration.

Minister of Interior 'Ali Mohammad Besharati who was present at the gathering gave some instructions at the end of the meeting for solving the problems of the people of Qazvin saying he would inform the officials about what they want.

The people of Qazvin rendered very important services after the triumpn of the revolution and in the sacred defence at the battlefronts.

Wednesday's demonstrations by the people of Qazvin following rejection by the Majles of their demand for a province, were exploited by opportunists, who went on a looting spree and destruction of public places.

The people of Qazvin today denounced any such moves to create disturbance in their city.

The gathering was attended by several Majles deputies.

'Resistance Leader' Statement

NC0508063694 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 0230 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] Yesterday afternoon, the leader of Iranian resistance, brother Mojahed Mas'ud Rajavi, said in a statement that the heroic uprising of the Qazvin people manifests the illegitimacy of the clerical regime. The following is the text of the statement:

The head of the National Resistance Council [NRC], brother Mas'ud Rajavi [words indistinct] and the martyrs of city's uprising, this great protest movement by the people shows the illegitimacy of the crisis-stricken clerical regime and is an indicator of the extent of public rage and aversion against the regime, a regime that has not brought anything to the people except suppression, executions, poverty, and deprivation.

Brother Mojahed Mas'ud Rajavi added: The explosion of the Qazvin people's rage also speaks of increasing public resistance against the regime as a result of the NRC's progress in democratic alternatives, especially after the successful convening of the week for national solidarity and support for the president elected [words indistinct] Maryam Rajavi.

One month before the solidarity week and the world demonstrations of 21 July, the clerical regime tried to attribute the explosion at the Imam Reza shrine and the assassination of Christian pastors, as well as many other

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crimes, to the Iranian resistance and resorted to intensive propaganda in a bid to control the situation. However, the Qazvin people's uprising clearly proves that none of the regime's plots and ploys have been effective and that the people of Iran will not be satisfied with anything less than the downfall of the clergymen.

[Words indistinct] and to ask international forums defending human rights to [words indistinct] vis-a-vis the policy of suppression [words indistinct] and to prevent the ruling criminal clergymen from intensifying the suppression and the revengeful acts against the risen Qazvin people.

Brother Mojahed Mas'ud Rajavi adds: The time has come for the UN Security Council to adopt a decision against this inhumane regime, whose only efforts are aimed at suppressing the people and violating human rights inside Iran and exporting terrorism and fundamentalism abroad [words indistinct].

'Outsiders' Blamed

LD0508075694 Tehran IRNA in English 2231 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] Qazvin, Aug. 4, IRNA—Some of the people arrested in the disturbances in this city on Wednesday are not Qazvinis and the security forces are investigating their suspicious presence in Qazvin under the present circumstances, disclosed a senior Interior Ministry official here on Thursday.

Director general for political-security affairs, Gholam Hoseyn-Bolandian, told the disciplinary forces to draw a line between the revolutionary people of Qazvin and those elements who tried to disturb public peace and security. Bolandian who was talking to a group of people in this city (130 kms west of Tehran), said most of the Qazvinis want to have the status of a province for this area and believe that their demands could be pursued through legal channels.

"Those who want to press their demands in a savage manner are not from us," he added.

Bolandian, who was sent as a special envoy of Interior Ministry 'Ali Mohammad Besharati to Qazvin to calm down the situation on Wednesday, said the changing of a particular region into a province is something normal, and several regions of the country have lodged such requests.

He told the people of Qazvin not to let outsiders to turn a normal request into a political demand, and not to allow anti-social elements to mar the beautiful face of Qazvin.

'Security Groups' Formed

LD0508082394 Tehran IRNA in English 2035 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] Qazvin, Aug. 4, IRNA—The people in some of the localities of Qazvin have formed security groups to protect public places against attacks by opportunist elements.

Amin Seyyed Javadi resident of Molkabad region of Qazvin while checking parts of the city with a group of eight youths said to IRNA today that they protest the rejection of the bill by the Majlis of making Qazvin a province but they do not allow opportunists to ruin their city.

"Qazvin is our beautiful city and we want to separate our account from the account of the people who by ruining the city facilities follow anti-popular goals," he said.

Farhad Sowlati student of Tehran University said the people of Qazvin had an apparent role in the triumph of the Islamic revolution and in the imposed war and now it seems some instigated people are trying to blacken this brilliant antecedent with their ugly and disapproved measures. He said the presence of the people in front of the house of the city's Friday prayer leader, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hadi Barikbin, and also their meeting in the an-Nabi Mosque in fact, is a display of the commitment of the people to the Islamic system and its laws.

Samad Farhang an employee of the Education Ministry voiced hatred of the destruction of some shops and public places by anti-social elements during Wednesday's demonstration, and said those who started fires and destruction in the city in fact have opposed the demand of the people. "We want the security forces to prevent the unpopular measures of such people earnestly," he added.

Disorder Said 'Condemned'

LD0508083494 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1800 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] Following the Majles vote against a bill to turn Qazvin region into a province—whereupon a number of opportunists sought to misuse the occasion—this afternoon a large group of people of the various strata of the ever vigilant Muslim people of Qazvin condemned any act contrary to social order, security, and peace, and announced their repeated adherence and support for the leader of the Islamic revolution, the system of the Islamic Republic, the government, and the Majles.

Participating in this large gathering were the clergy, the Friday prayer leader, Qazvin representatives in the Majles, and Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Abutorabi.

Mr. Besharati has promised the brave people of Qazvin the separation of the Qazvin region from Zanjan Province and its incorporation into Tehran Province.

City Reported 'Relatively Calm'

NC0508091494 Paris AFP in English 0850 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Report by Kianush Dorrani]

[Text] Tehran, Aug 5 (AFP)—Police rounded up hundreds of demonstrators in the industrial city of Qazvin to

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end rioting which left four dead, dozens injured and caused widespread damage, informed sources said Friday.

According to witnesses contacted by telephone, the city was "relatively calm" and traffic had returned to normal.

A police official said that roads to and from Qazvin had been reopened after the authorities sealed off the city and its million inhabitants on Thursday.

The Iranian media provided no figures on the number of arrests or the casualties from the riots, but witnesses said that at least four people were killed and hundreds of others wounded during clashes between the demonstrators and security forces.

Informed sources said police had arrested hundreds of people to stop the riots which also caused extensive damage to public buildings.

Without giving any figures, interior ministry official Gholam Hoseyn Bolandian said a number of those arrested had come from outside Qazvin and that the authorities were investigating their presence in the city.

He warned that the authorities "distinguished between the revolutionary people of Qazvin and elements who tried to disrupt peace and stability."

Violence broke out after a government proposal to create a new province with Qazvin as the capital was narrowly defeated in the Iranian parliament on Wednesday by 105-103 with 23 abstentions.

It was rejected under pressure from conservatives who said it was not in the country's interests.

Qazvin, which was the country's capital in the 1920s and is now among the most industrialised cities in Iran, has been a part of Zanjan province.

The city, 140 kilometers (90 miles) west of Tehran, however has been pushing to become a province in its own right.

Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati travelled to the city to try to defuse the situation and announced that Qazvin would in future be administered under Tehran province.

Meanwhile, the official news agency IRNA blamed "anti-social elements" for the attacks on public buildings. [words indistinct] The agency also accused the main armed opposition group, the People's Mojahedin, of "trying to take advantage of the situation."

A large group of people, mainly members of the Islamic volunteer militia (Basij) and religious officials and several MPs, staged a rally in the city to condemn the riots on Thursday, Iranian radio said.

It said the demonstrators voiced support for the government and the Islamic system of government in Iran and denounce "opportunist elements who tried to reap benefit" from the situation.

11-Point Bill To Ban Satellite Dishes Discussed

NC0508101094 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 1 Aug 94 p 2

[Editorial: "On Threshold of Legal Ban on Satellite Dishes"]

[Text] Following ample specialized discussions and consultations, the Islamic Guidance and Art Commission of the Majles (Islamic Consultative Assembly) Thursday drafted an eleven-point bill to ban the import, manufacture, distribution, and installation of satellite dishes in Iran. This relatively comprehensive draft will be presented to the open session of the Majles for ratification.

The draft urges the relevant bodies to collaborate with one another and to use the lever of international law to counter the airing of satellite programs. In addition, the Islamic Republic of Iran's Broadcasting (IRIB) has been called on to make recordings and screening of those programs that are not in contravention to Islamic values and principles.

Even though satellite airing is relatively new in nooks and corners of the world, many people consider these programs a threat to the integrity and solidity of their families and societies and have shown negative reactions to them.

In tune with such a view, the measure taken by the Islamic Guidance and Art Commission of the Majles is justifiable as a first step for the legal prohibition on the use of satellite dishes. For this reason, the Majles move is laudable even though it seems to have come with a slight delay.

The thinkers of different communities are, meantime, expected to voice out the harm and negative aspects of the cheaply absurd and commonplace satellite programs, thus barring the way for cultural inroad and reducing the number of silent victims of this invasion.

The sound and humane utilization of technological advancements for the welfare of human beings, enhancement of spirituality, and fulfillment of humanitarian objectives is beneficial and acceptable for each and every individual and society with sundry cultures.

As a very advanced technological phenomena in the field of communication, satellites can be primarily used for education, propagation of sublime ethical values and virtues, and elimination of ethical vices.

Unfortunately, these applications have been neglected. In return, satellites are used for airing corrupt and absurd programs which conduce to the collapse of humane values and the disintegration of the family.

Nowadays, different satellite programs are mainly targeting the cultural identity of the nations. Consequently, alertness and vigilance—rather than a simplistic approach—is called for toward this phenomenon.

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Ways To Revitalize Economy Viewed

NC0508101294 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 2 Aug 94 p 2

[Editorial: "A Vitalized Economy"]

[Text] In recent months some differences of opinion have arisen between producers and the Central Bank. The former accuse the latter of failing to offer efficient services for opening letters of credit (LC). The producers are also complaining about the Central Bank's "improper" foreign exchange policies and blame the banking system for the delay in the implementation of many projects.

We have no intention of either condemning the Central Bank or criticizing the producers, but wish to emphasize that such differences could inflict irreparable damage on the economy as a whole.

The banking system and producers are two strong arms of growth and developments of the economy. Lack of coordination and disagreement between the two segments would hinder this growth and development.

The Central Bank is faced with numerous problems, such as reduced foreign exchange revenues, payment of foreign loans, as well as mismanagement.

The productive units are encountering many difficulties such that the continued operation of some of the units is not economical.

It is imperative to set up a committee for optimum and timely appropriation of credit to the production units, particularly for the implementation of national projects. It is unwise to further impede the implementation of projects whose delay would do irrevocable damage to the state economy on the pretext of a drop in the country's foreign exchange earnings. If a project is economically justified, it should receive full support.

While trying to gain prestige and credibility in international organizations, the Central Bank should at the same time act as a patron of our productive units so that Iran could reach an appropriate status in the international economy.

Provisional policies, distrust in the policies adopted by the Central Bank, the people's lack of confidence in the banking system would gradually slow the wheels of the economy.

Before such differences are aggravated, it is necessary to resolve them and, thus, prevent them from harming the economy. The fulfillment of this task is ever more important since we are on the threshold of the Second Five-Year Plan, the adoption of appropriate decisions and forecasts is of utmost significance at this juncture.

Pakistan

Armed Forces' Weapons Acquisition Plan Reported

BK0408142594 Islamabad PAKISTAN in Urdu 4 Aug 94 pp 8,7

[Text] Pakistan will acquire antiaircraft guns and a modern radar system on an emergency basis to bolster its air defense system in view of the threat posed to its security by an extremely strong Indian Air Force and Indian missiles in the region. It has been learned that the general headquarters has prepared an investigative report on Pakistan's defense capability to deal with any emergency in the context of Indian aggressive designs. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was briefed on the report, which was also discussed at the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee and corps commanders meeting. It has been learned that the prime minister has approved the report in principle. The report says that to deal with India's aggressive designs and in view of Pakistan's modest resources, the Pakistan Army should urgently acquire a modern air defense system and tanks. For quite a long time, Pakistan has been mulling acquisition of tanks from a number of sources. Acquisition of T-72 tanks from Poland was contemplated during the tenure of General Asif Nawaz, and considerable progress was also made in this regard. Later, it was decided to acquire the Chinese tanks, and T-89 tanks were acquired from China. Now Pakistan is considering two different proposals. One is to acquire more tanks and their technology from China. The other is to acquire T-72 tank from Russia, which is much better than the Chinese model. Currently, the Pakistan-China collaboration "Al-Khald" tank is also being produced. More work on this project is now under way after a thorough examination of the effectiveness of the prototype. The project was discussed during Chinese Defense Minister Chi Haotian's visit to Pakistan. In the future, "Al-Khald" will be Pakistan's "main battle tank."

Regarding the air defense system, it was decided to immediately acquire longer range antiaircraft guns. It was also decided to acquire most modern and powerful radar system. Moreover, revival of Pakistan's ground-to-air Anza Missile program is also being considered. Pakistan had suspended the program some time ago under U.S. pressure. It is now considering reviving the program with Chinese cooperation. It has been learned that the prime minister has agreed in principle to meet the requirements of the Pakistan Army on an urgent basis. The acquisition of submarines for the Pakistani Navy will probably be postponed for a few months, and the requirements of the Army will be met first.

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